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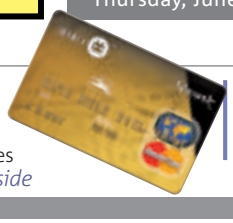
point taken
Credit card companies, banks provide incentives
loyalty rewards inside



how it works
Explaining the land transfer tax
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sticky fingers
Check out this recipe for slow cooked back ribs
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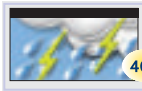

High 28°
Low 18°
40%
WEATHER P. 57

Fix system: Lawyers

Hanemaayer acquitted for crime committed by Paul Bernardo

Anthony Hanemaayer's acquittal yesterday for a 1987 sex attack committed by Paul Bernardo exposed not just another wrongful conviction, but what his lawyers call a multitude of problems plaguing Canada's justice system, including the use of dangerous eyewitness evidence.

Hanemaayer's lawyers hope the 20 years he spent paying for Bernardo's crime will translate into compensation for their client and a police investigation into whether the serial killer committed other offences, including the 1990 disappearance of Elizabeth Bain.

"Anthony Hanemaayer's wrongful conviction could happen just as easily in 2008 as it did back in 1989," lawyer James Lockyer told a news conference shortly after Hanemaayer emerged with his parents into the sun outside the Ontario Court of Appeal to enjoy his first moments as a finally free man.

"I'm very happy that it's over," said Hanemaayer, a soft-spoken, 40-year-old roofer who appeared close to tears yesterday, including when asked about his parents, Peter and Wilma. "If I didn't have them," he said, "I'd be lost."

Hanemaayer was accused of being the knife-wielding assailant who broke into a Scarborough house through a basement window sometime before dawn on Sept. 29, 1987, crept upstairs to a 15-year-old girl's bedroom and threatened to kill her if she didn't stay quiet. Startled by the victim's mother, the girl's attacker ran out the door.

Lockyer said both Hanemaayer and the victim were let down by the justice system.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RON BULL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Anthony Hanemaayer leaves Osgoode Hall with his parents, Wilma and Peter, yesterday after being acquitted of a 1987 sex attack committed by serial killer Paul Bernardo.

C-section rate alarms doctors

Caesarean births at an all-time high in Canada

The rate of caesarean births is at an all-time high in Canada, putting more women at risk for complications and increasing the strain on an already overburdened health-care system, says the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

More than one-in-four newborns in Canada are now delivered by C-section, says the SOGC, which is looking for ways to halt and reverse that upward trend.

In light of the rising rates, the society is urging Canadian health-care providers and women to opt for C-sections only when deemed medically necessary.

increase
» Lefebvre said 26.3 per cent of women giving birth do so by C-section, a dramatic rise from 1993, when 17 per cent of births were performed with the surgical intervention.

"The SOGC's position is that we should really strive for normal childbirth," president Dr. Guylaine Lefebvre said from Calgary, where the organization is holding its annual meeting this week.

While generally considered a safe procedure — and often life-saving — a caesarean birth means longer hospital stays for women, more pain and a far longer recovery compared with vaginal delivery, she said, noting an abdominal incision takes about six weeks to heal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wealthy, those with children prefer bottled water: StatsCan

Statistics Canada says higher-income households and those with children are most likely to drink bottled water at home.

The agency says apartment dwellers, seniors and households with at least one university graduate were least likely to use bottled water.

It says almost 30 per cent of all households used bottled water as their main drinking source in 2006.

It also notes that the amount of plastic waste generated by consumption of bottled water has raised environmental concerns, especially since most communities have perfectly good drinking water in the taps.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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toronto

Toronto Police handed out nearly 7,000 tickets during their Safe Cycling campaign that wrapped up Sunday. The program was intended to help educate motorists and cyclists about bike safety and road rules. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Catch the review of action thriller Wanted, starring Angelina Jolie, right, and James McAvoy.

T.O. falling behind: Report

Concern growing over economic future, poll finds

Torontonians are worried the city is losing its status as Canada's top business hub and are blaming city hall for chasing away companies through wasteful spending and unfavourable tax policies, says a report from the Fraser Institute.

The think-tank's study — "Is Toronto in Decline? Worrying Trends from the Census" — argues that the nation's largest city is "failing to keep pace with other Canadian cities" as its median income lags the national average and the city hemorrhages coveted management, business and finance jobs.

The report says the study will serve as the foundation for future "urban policy" research spearheaded by former Ontario premier Mike Harris and former federal opposition leader Preston Manning.

But in conjunction with its study, the Fraser Institute also released a COMPAS opinion poll highlighting "growing" concern among Torontonians that "city hall is failing to adequately plan for the future."

Sixty-two per cent of respondents said the city does not spend money efficiently and 63 per cent believe its tax policies are driving business away. Forty per cent worry Toronto is falling behind other cities such as Calgary or Vancouver.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Laid-off, single mom wins $25M

A 59-year-old single mother from Scarborough was laid off in February 2008 but now she will not bother to find a new job.

Beverly Palmer was all smiles yesterday when she picked up the $25 million cheque for winning last Wednesday's Lotto 6/49 jackpot.

"I do not choose the number, the number chose me," Ontario's newest multi-millionaire said told reporters at the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) office when asked about her gaming strategy.

But her love of sunshine may have helped the Jamaican-born Canadian, who immigrated to Canada 38 years ago. Since the weather forecast predicted a wet day for Wednesday, she bought a quick pick ticket on Tuesday at Shopper's Drug Mart on Rylander Blvd. in Scarborough. She did not check her ticket until last Sunday at a self-scanner.

She called her brother and they rechecked the number.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Beverly Palmer, 59, of Scarborough shows her $25 million Lotto cheque yesterday.

Cops look into limo complaints

Honeymooners and corporate executives have joined high school students from Whitby to London complaining they were taken for a ride by a limousine company which has police forces across southern Ontario investigating.

"I spent $60,000 on my wedding. Tuxedo Limousines ruined my wedding day," says Ajay Baldeo, 28, who booked three stretch Hummers from Tuxedo Limousines for his June 14 wedding.

Instead, he says he got one stretch Hummer and a bus .

Frank Rousso, who claims to be a co-owner of Tuxedo Limousines with Tanya Krajishnik, said, "If that party was stranded, it was because they broke the contract or the driver wasn't paid in full."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

informed
» Fraud squads with Toronto police, York Region police and the Ontario Provincial Police have all received complaints from customers of Tuxedo Limousines.

»news In Brief

» **HYDRO** Across Toronto, 40,000 homeowners have volunteered to let Toronto Hydro shut down their air conditioners for short periods on very hot days to conserve scarce power. Chief executive Dave O'Brien told Toronto councillors that he'd be happy to activate the system to conserve power, which would reduce the demand for electricity produced.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Minister lauds GO plan for Milton

It will be three years before the Milton GO line sees all-day, two-way service. Ditto on an east-end service expansion from Oshawa to Bowmanville.

But the improvements are a giant step forward for the Milton line, which carried about 6.3 million people last year, said MPP Steve Delaney, who rides the service from the Streetsville station to Queen's Park.

The expansion that is likely to add 1.2 million trips annually can't come soon enough for commuters, but at least the GO projects won't be held up by red tape, thanks to a shortened six-month environmental assessment process for new transit projects, said municipal and provincial politicians.

Touting the new rules as long-overdue, Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion said residents are fed up with waiting for better transit.

"It's time we shortened the procedure, cut out the red tape and got on with the job. People want the job to happen. They want the service to be improved," she said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Curse of the elevators

When broken escalators at busy stations are blocked off, it's more than an inconvenience — severe crowding can result. Back in February I reported on multiple escalator outages in some GO rail stations — specifically at Clarkson and Port Credit.

Whitby station also seems to have a special escalator curse — several units have been broken for long periods. TTC subway users may also have noticed chronic problems with certain elevators — like the one linking Yonge and Bloor stops.

Colin from Mississauga sends an update on Clarkson: "All three escalators have been out of order for some months now. Two of those escalators are blocked off, effectively cutting the capacity at that end of the platform by one-half." He notes the only work going on seems to be changing the posted date the escalators are to be fixed.

GO Transit confirms one escalator at Clarkson has been down for approximately 10 weeks while two have been broken for about six weeks. Luke Togo, GO's manager for station operations – West Region, estimates there have been three to four escalator breakdowns within the last year at Clarkson.

IN TRANSIT
ED DRASS
transit@eddrass.com

The Whitby escalators also previously conked out en masse, were then repaired, but now have been out of service since March 21.

Many escalators in GO stations are damaged as moisture, sand or salt get into the machinery. The regional agency is deciding which ones to repair and which to convert to stairs.

Some riders won't like the latter option. A visit to *gotransit.com* shows which escalators are to be removed, including several at Union Station and Whitby.

Togo reports the three units at Clarkson all had the same problem and repeated delays are due to waiting for parts from Korea. They arrived "just last week" but had to be modified slightly, he says, adding GO is "very optimistic" that two of the escalators will be working at "the end of this week" and the third by late next Monday.

TTC riders can sympathize with waiting lengthy periods for escalators to be rebuilt. Although most TTC escalator work is done "in-house," I'm hoping to hear back from Kone, the multinational escalator and elevator firm that both GO and TTC deal with.

I'm also trying to keep an eye on how well TTC and GO notify riders when elevating devices are out of service. GO's website seems fairly up-to-date, but *ttc.ca* (see Accessible Service) only lists elevators or escalators that are closed for "planned maintenance." Too often this information does not mesh with the "Lift-Line" at 416-539-5438.

Last week, both elevators allowing disabled riders to transfer between the TTC's two busiest subway lines were out of order simultaneously for a few days — but information was sketchy.

I'd like to hear from readers who use the web and phone to learn of broken lifts and elevators.

Ed Drass has a degree in urban studies from York University and regularly rides transit in the GTA and elsewhere.

»news In Brief

» **CHARGES** The owner of a Toronto area college is facing charges for allegedly trying to bribe a government official. Police say Goodwin College was in violation of provincial standards and its owner offered a Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities official money to report that it wasn't. Zhenxiang "Gordon" Yi has been charged with two counts of bribery and will be in court on July 4.

» **WARNING** Police are warning of a potential sex offender after a man persuaded a special needs teenager at the Agincourt library on Bonis Avenue to go for a drive. Police are seeking a black man, 30 to 45 years old with medium build, driving a burgundy four-door car with a broken mirror on the left side.

» **FIRE** An overnight explosion and series of fires damaged at least 13 vehicles at West York Chev-Olds on St. Clair Avenue West yesterday. Firefighters at 3 a.m. doused flames from nine vehicles parked in the dealership's front lot and four in back.

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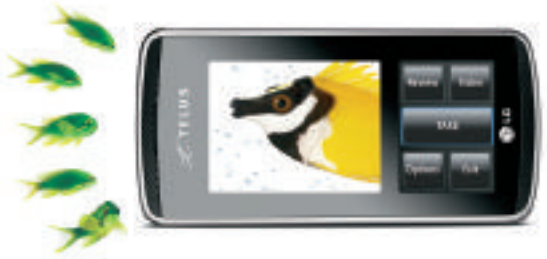

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155 - 720 King St. W
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130 King St.
363 Front St. W (City Place)
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WEST

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Mapleview Mall
Milton Crossroads Centre

Brampton
Bramalea City Centre
Shoppers World
60 Great Lakes Dr. (inside Home Depot)
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Georgetown
Georgetown Marketplace

Mississauga
Dixie Outlet Mall
Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Town Centre
Square One
Winston Churchill & 401
Woodchester Plaza
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1A - 1370 Dundas St. E
9 - 34 Bristol Rd. E
2 - 4920 Tomken Rd.
6 - 114 Lakeshore Rd. E
101 - 6200 Dixie Rd.

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canada

Statistics Canada says all levels of governments racked up a combined surplus of $28.1 billion last year, the fourth year in a row that the black ink has totalled more than $20 billion. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trial hears Khawaja acted as courier

Star witness testifies for third day in terror trial

Momin Khawaja acted as a courier to deliver money and supplies to al Qaeda, mused about using a model airplane to carry explosives, and theorized at one point about sending a colleague on a suicide mission to Israel, the former software designer's terrorism trial has heard.

Mohammed Babar, the prosecution's star witness, testified yesterday that on a visit to Pakistan in October 2003, Khawaja brought along cash, a medical kit and invisible writing implements.

Babar said the money — about 1,000 British pounds and an unknown amount in Canadian dollars — was handed over along with the other material to a go-between, who in turn was to deliver them to Sheik Abu Munthir, an al Qaeda lieutenant in northern Pakistan.

The money and supplies that Khawaja was carrying allegedly came from Omar Khyam, one of five men convicted last year in Britain of conspiring to bomb a nightclub, shopping centre and electrical and gas distribution facilities.

Khawaja faces seven charges arising from the same plot. He has pleaded not guilty and is being tried by Justice Douglas Rutherford of Ontario Superior Court without a jury.

In subsequent e-mail traffic entered in evidence yesterday, Khawaja also suggested sending a British acquaintance — then living in Pakistan — on a suicide mission to Israel.

Babar also recounted yet another conversation with Khawaja, in which the Ottawa man mentioned that land was cheap in Canada and suggested his U.K. friends should consider buying some to set up a terrorist training camp. There was no evidence that any of the ideas — training camp in Canada, suicide mission to Israel, or model plane bomb delivery — resulted in concrete action. But the testimony served to buttress Crown efforts to paint Khawaja as a man who was ideologically committed to jihad and maintained contacts among Islamic extremists in Britain and Pakistan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

key allegations

» The key allegation in the array of charges against Khawaja is that he built a remote-controlled detonator that his alleged co-conspirators in Britain intended to use to set off homemade bombs in and around London.

Harper shuffle barely cuts deck

Emerson to stay in foreign affairs role, Fortier promoted

Prime Minister Stephen Harper turned to senior minister and former Liberal David Emerson yesterday for a steady hand on Canada's foreign policy after Maxime Bernier's disgraced departure as foreign affairs minister.

In a mini-cabinet shuffle, Harper handed the international trade file — with all the complications of the Canada-U.S. trade relationship in a U.S. election year — to Michael Fortier, the unelected senator from Montreal who became Harper's public works minister in January 2006.

The big-spending public works job goes to Quebecker Christian Paradis, a junior minister on the agriculture file. B.C.'s James Moore, Fortier's former Commons stand-in as parliamentary secretary, gets the job of secretary of state for the Pacific Gateway, the 2010 Olympics and Official languages.

Some had expected Finance Minister Jim Flaherty to be replaced in part because of the war he has waged with Ontario's Liberal government.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

International Trade Minister Michael Fortier is sworn in to his post yesterday as Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean look on during a mini-cabinet shuffle ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

Popular Que. minister steps down from post

Was expected to succeed Charest

Quebec's popular health minister stepped down yesterday, saying he had done all he could for the province's troubled health-care system.

Once touted as a possible successor to Premier Jean Charest, Philippe Couillard announced he was leaving politics to explore "other horizons."

He claimed "undeniable" progress had been made during his tenure. But he also acknowledged that much still needs to be done to improve health-care services in the province. He denied tensions with Charest had to do with his decision.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta hits back at U.S.

Alberta is firing back at U.S. politicians who think the province's massive oilsands projects create "dirty" energy products that should be avoided.

Energy Minister Mel Knight says American lawmakers will likely feel a backlash from consumers if they stop buying fuel derived from oilsands bitumen. The minister was reacting to news reports that presidential hopeful Barack Obama is now talking about curbing imports from the Alberta oilsands.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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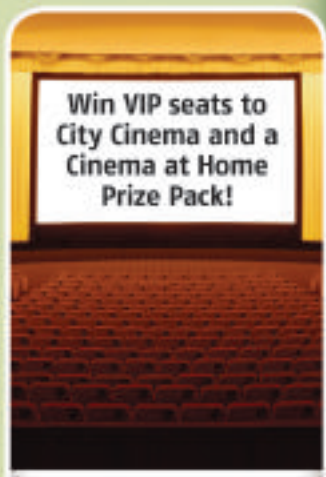

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30–44 months	$299.99	$69.99	$999.99	$129.99
45+ months	$299.99	$99.99	$2999.99	$149.99

Wait times unaffected

New report says fears of increases unfounded

Fears that an effort to cut wait times for priority surgeries would lengthen delays for other types of operations may have been unfounded, a new report suggests.

In the two years after Canada's First Ministers agreed to massive increases in health spending to reduce wait times for key surgeries and procedures, there was an eight per cent increase in the rates for the four surgical priorities.

But that doesn't seem to have happened by shifting the delays to surgeries or procedures not on the initial priority list, according to a report from the Canadian Institute for Health Information.

"To this point, these additional operations do not appear to have come at the expense of other procedures, but it is important that we continue to monitor these trends," Glenda Yeates, the institute's president and CEO, said in a release.

Rates of surgeries for procedures not among the wait time initiative's priorities have either remained stable or increased slightly in all provinces, the report said.

In 2004, Canada's First Ministers agreed to invest billions of dollars of new money into a effort to reduce waiting times for five types of procedures.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

surgeries

» Nearly 60,000 additional surgeries in the priority areas were performed between 2004-05 and 2006-07, the report said. Joint replacements and cataract surgery had the most wait.

New Brunswick **Fun in the sun**

NOEL CHENIER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Children from the Boys and Girls Club summer day camps run underneath a colourful parachute yesterday on Chown Field as they enjoyed an afternoon of sun in Saint John, NB.

»news In Brief

» **FISH** Statistics Canada says fewer people are fishing for fun these days, which is good news for the fish, at least. The agency says 3.2 million adults bought fishing licences in Canada in 2005, down 25 per cent from the number who hit the water in 1995. Overall, it says, recreational fishermen are getting older — the average age is 48 for men and 44 for women.

» **NAMES** Halifax scientists creating a database of ocean organisms have found that some marine species are going by many different aliases. The scientists have found that 32 per cent of all marine species are known by many different names, including the Breadcrumb Sponge with its 56 aliases.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Black loses fraud appeal

Conrad Black has lost an appeal of fraud and obstruction of justice convictions and will have to serve out his sentence in a Florida prison for what the court described as a "misuse" of his position as Hollinger's chief executive "for private gain."

Black

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeal in Chicago affirmed the convictions yesterday, saying arguments by Black, 63, and his three co-defendants weren't sufficient to overturn the charges.

The three-judge panel rejected Black's argument that he and other executives were entitled to certain payments, calling some of the suggestions made during the trial in favour of the need for non-compete fees "ridiculous."

Black is serving a 6½-year sentence in a Florida prison after being convicted on the three counts of fraud and one of obstruction of justice.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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world

Scientists have identified a gene that may raise the risk of getting the most common kind of Alzheimer's disease in people who inherit a certain form of it. That form of the gene appears to hamper a brain cell's ability to take in calcium, researchers said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warming a threat to security

U.S. fears climate change could boost terrorism

Global warming is likely to create humanitarian disasters, increase illegal immigration and destabilize precarious governments and could add to terrorism, according to a new assessment by U.S. intelligence agencies.

"Logic suggests the conditions exacerbated (by climate change) would increase the pool of potential recruits for terrorism," said Tom Fingar, deputy director of national intelligence for analysis, who testified before a joint House committee hearing Wednesday.

Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Central and Southeast Asia are most vulnerable to warming-related drought, flooding, extreme weather and hunger. The intelligence assessment warns of a global spillover of those troubles: Increased migration and water-related disputes, Fingar said in prepared remarks.

Climate change alone would not topple governments, but it could worsen problems like poverty, disease, migration and hunger that could destabilize already vulnerable areas, Fingar told the committee.

On the other hand, efforts to reduce global warming by changing energy policies "may affect U.S. national security interests even more than the physical impacts of climate change itself," he stated.

The assessment on the national security implications of climate change through 2030 is among periodic intelligence reports that offer the consensus of top analysts at all 16 U.S. spy agencies on security and global economic issues. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police academy **Taking aim in Iraq**

AHMED ALHUSSAINEY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A police officer aims her weapon at a practice range during a graduation ceremony in Karbala, 80 kilometres south of Baghdad. Some 115 policewomen graduated yesterday from Karbala's police academy.

Kentucky gunman planned rampage

Warned girlfriend before he killed 5 people and self

A man who killed five people and himself in a rampage at a western Kentucky plastics plant called his girlfriend two hours before the rampage to warn her he was going to kill his boss, police said yesterday.

Police said Wesley N. Higdon, 25, had an argument yesterday with his supervisor about wearing safety goggles and using his cellphone while at his press machine.

Later that night, as the supervisor escorted him from the building, Higdon shot him. Then, he charged into a break room and the plant floor and kept shooting before turning the gun himself, police said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boy rescues toddler stuck for 22 hours

A 12-year-old boy climbed into a crevice in a mountain gorge in western Nepal yesterday to rescue a two-year-old girl who had fallen in 22 hours earlier, officials said.

The boy volunteered to clamber about 60 metres into the narrow hole and bring the toddler, Aradhana Pradhan, back to safety, a police official said.

"I managed to reach her, tie a rope around her, free her and pull her out," Kamal Nepali told reporters at the local hospital where he and the girl were taken after the rescue.

Doctors at the Manipal Teaching Hospital in Pokhara, 200 kilometres west of Kathmandu, said Pradhan was in stable condition.

Nepali, a school gymnast, volunteered to help after hearing army and police rescuers had failed in their attempts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

militant watch

Al Qaeda suspect toll reaches 700

SAUDI ARABIA Saudi authorities arrested 701 suspected al Qaeda-linked militants in 2008, some of whom planned a car bomb attack on an oil installation, the Interior Ministry said yesterday.

The kingdom has reported arrests of militants before, including those linked to al Qaeda, but the figure released yesterday was the highest to date. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadly storm moves to south China

Already trampled the Philippines

Tropical storm Fengshen is lashing southern China with heavy rains and strong winds, bringing new misery to a region already struggling to recover from deadly floods earlier this month.

Fengshen, which killed hundreds in the Philippines as a typhoon, made landfall yesterday morning.

It had winds of more than 80 kilometres per hour as it moved into Shenzhen area, where forecasters predicted heavy rains of up to 20 centimetres yesterday and today.

The official Xinhua news agency says one crewman is missing and another was injured after they fell into the sea from a container ship making an emergency stop off Guangdong to wait out the storm.

In Hong Kong, the storm injured at least 17 people and flooded 38 areas across the city. Flooding in southeastern China earlier this month killed at least 63 people, forced the evacuation of at least 1.66 million others and caused billions of dollars in damage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mars mystery solved?

Monster impact may be reason for planet's variations

Why is Mars two-faced?

Scientists say fresh evidence supports the theory that a monster impact punched the red planet, leaving behind perhaps the largest gash on any heavenly body in the solar system.

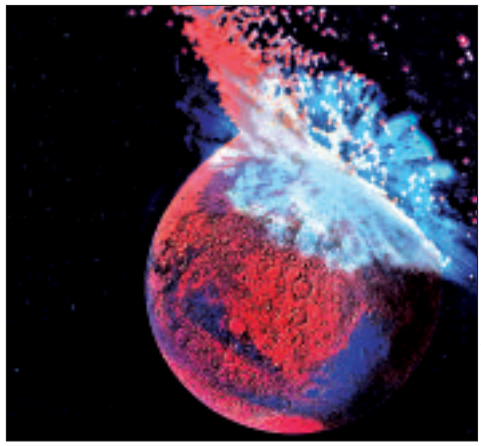
Today, the Martian surface has a split personality. The southern hemisphere is pockmarked and filled with ancient rugged highlands.

By contrast, the northern hemisphere is smoother and covered by low-lying plains.

Three papers published in Thursday's journal Nature provide the most convincing evidence yet that an outside force was responsible.

Researchers say an asteroid or comet whacked a young Mars some four billion years ago, blasting away much of its northern crust and creating a giant hole over 40 per cent of the surface.

New calculations reveal the crater known as the Borealis basin measures 8,500 kilometres across and 10,600 kilometres long — the size of Asia, Europe and Australia combined. It's believed to be four times bigger than the current titleholder, the South Pole-Aitken basin on Earth's moon. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



JEFFREY ANDREWS/HANNA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

This artists rendition shows an impact on the surface of Mars. Fresh evidence supports the theory that a monster impact punched the red planet, leaving behind perhaps the largest gash on any heavenly body in the solar system.

Zimbabwe faces condemnation

World laments leadership failure, talks of sanctions

Zimbabwe plunged deeper into international isolation just two days before a presidential run-off widely dismissed as a farce, as the Queen stripped Robert Mugabe of his knighthood in the most high-profile rebuke to date of his rule.

South Africa's anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela in London lamented the "tragic failure of leadership in our neighbouring Zimbabwe," according to a speech released by his foundation.

U.S. President George W. Bush said tomorrow's elections "appear to be a sham," and a meeting of southern African regional leaders normally strongly sympathetic to Mugabe said the run-off should be postponed.

Tougher sanctions could be next, and world support may build for Zimbabwe opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai.

Tsvangirai made the call for peacekeepers in a commentary published in British newspaper The Guardian yesterday. Asked about that later, Tsvangirai said: "What do you do when you don't have guns and the people are being brutalized out there?" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mugabe rebuked

» The Queen stripped Robert Mugabe of his ceremonial knighthood yesterday, amid new attempts to rebuke the president of Zimbabwe and express revulsion over human rights abuses in his country. The unusual move was the most eye-catching of many steps, which included decisions to press for new EU sanctions against Mugabe's government, to ban Zimbabwe's cricket team from a tour of Britain, and a government warning that Britons should avoid all travel to the country.

»news In Brief

» **OLYMPICS** The Beijing Olympics are looking like a bust for the city's hotels. The 17-day Games were supposed to generate a buzz throughout the summer, leading to a tourism windfall with fully booked hotels. Instead, tourism is slow.

» **DRUGS** China plans to crack down on illegal drugs in Beijing around the Olympics, a top police official said yesterday. Authorities will target drug use at nightclubs and other entertainment venues, as well as smugglers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Communion going back in time

A papal aide says Pope Benedict intends to return to the old way of distributing communion at mass.

Benedict's master of liturgical ceremonies said yesterday that the pontiff will place the communion host in the mouths of the faithful who kneel before him.

That's how Roman Catholics received Communion in the years before the modernizing reforms of the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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KLAPPSTA armchair $249 was $288. Everöd red. Removable cover. W76×D73×H73cm. RA.

PÅBO pendant lamp
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was ~~$24.99~~/ea

PÅBO pendant lamp $9.99/ea was ~~$24.99~~/ea. Green, red, or transparent. Max 35W. Halogen bulb is included. Ø7cm, cord length 165cm. RA.

BÄSTIS cat/dog tent $7.99 was ~~$14.99~~. Assorted colours. L48×W48×H40cm. RA.

HELLUM rug
$99
was ~~$199~~

HELLUM rug $99 was ~~$199~~. Dark red. Handwoven. 80% wool, 20% nylon. L240×W170cm.

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FRITIOF stool $4.99/ea was ~~$7.99~~/ea. Black or green. Stackable. Ø31×H44×W43cm. RA.

KLIPPAN loveseat $299 was ~~$329~~. Vimle green. Removable, washable, 100% cotton slipcover. W180×D88×H66cm. RA.

TORIM floor lamp series $29.99/ea was ~~$69.99~~/ea. Paper/steel. Dimmer function. 4×40W. Man figure Ø42×H183cm. Woman figure Ø34×H168cm.

LINDVED shelving unit $69 was ~~$89~~. White. Powder-coated steel with tempered glass. W90×D35×H180cm. RA.

NORESUND queen bed frame $149 was ~~$249~~

NORESUND bed frame series. Black-brown. Steel. Includes slats and midbeam. RA.
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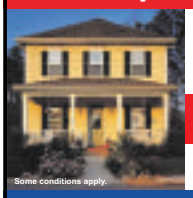
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New products from RIM

BlackBerry maker goes head-to-head with rivals

Consumers could be seeing cheaper BlackBerry models from Research In Motion Ltd. as the device-maker prepares to go head-to-head with rivals such as Apple Inc. over the next six months.

Co-CEO Jim Balsillie said yesterday that RIM will roll out a "flurry" of new products through the second half of the year, and that the pricing of some devices could be lowered in a bid to drive further acceptance.

A similar strategy has been adopted by Apple, which said earlier this month that its second-generation iPhone would cost as little as $199 US with carrier subsidies, compared to $399 US for the existing model.

RIM yesterday reported fiscal first-quarter earnings that more than doubled to $482.5 million US. Sales rose to $2.24 billion as RIM's global subscriber base grew by 2.3 million to a total of about 16 million. However, RIM failed to meet the market's expectations for earnings for the first time in five quarters. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

automotive

GM buys time on Oshawa's new cars

NO HURRY General Motors of Canada is searching for new vehicle lines to keep operations running at its car assembly plant in Oshawa, but has downplayed reports an announcement is imminent.

Reports have implied GM could unveil plans this week to add more car models to the flexible car assembly plant, which currently builds Chevrolet Impala and Buick Allure/LaCrosse sedans and will start making the new Camaro sporty car late this year.

But a GM spokeswoman said she was "not aware of any timing for specific announcements." CANADIAN PRESS

»news
In Brief

» **CREDIT** American Express said MasterCard will pay it as much as $1.8 billion US to settle an antitrust lawsuit.

» **GREENER** The Competition Bureau says ads touting environmental benefits of products should be specific and substantiated. Firms in Canada will have a one-year transition period to adhere to new guidelines.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

WestJet banks on winter

WestJet Airlines Ltd. — defying worries about high jet-fuel costs — is adding new winter sun destinations.

A week after Air Canada announced winter capacity reductions and 2,000 job cuts, WestJet said it will initiate non-stop service to Bridgetown in Barbados and La Romana the Dominican Republic.

WestJet said its winter schedule will also include new service to Cancun and Puerto Vallarta in Mexico from various cities across Canada, along with increased frequency between Toronto and Jamaica, St. Lucia and the Dominican Republic. CANADIAN PRESS

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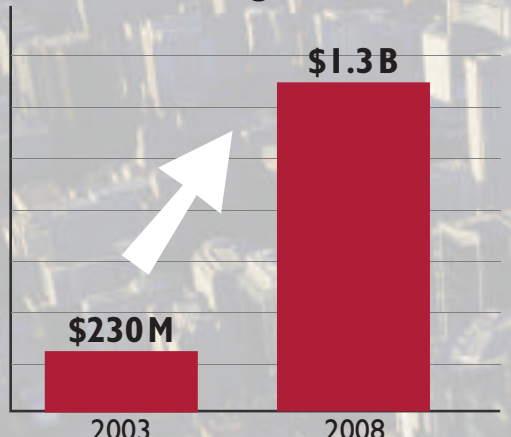

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sports

San Antonio Spurs point guard Tony Parker will be the cover athlete and spokesman for EA Sports' NBA LIVE 09. The 26-year-old will be the first European-born global cover athlete of NBA LIVE. METRO NEWS SERVICES

ALEXANDER HASSENSTEIN/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Germany's Philipp Lahm, centre, celebrates after scoring in the 90th minute against Turkey during semifinal action yesterday at Euro 2008 in Basel, Switzerland. Lahm's goal proved to be the winner that sent Germany into Sunday's championship final.

Germany pulls one out

Lahm's late goal helps favourites advance to final

EURO2008

Philipp Lahm ended Turkey's storybook run in the European Championship yesterday by scoring a 90th-minute goal to give Germany a 3-2 semifinal victory and keep it on target for a record fourth title.

With two goals in the final five minutes, the match could have gone either way, but after three thrilling comeback victories in a row for Turkey, it was Germany's day.

First, Semih Senturk kept Turkey in the game with an 86th-minute equalizer. He beat Jens Lehmann at the near post after surging in to deflect a low cross from Sabri Sarioglu, who had fooled Lahm with a classy move.

With the Turkish fans celebrating wildly, Lahm immediately sought and found redemption to decide a classic game. He cut in from left, set up a one-two with Thomas Hitzlsperger, collected the ball and shot it past Rustu Recber to unleash the joy of about 20,000 German fans at St. Jakob Park in Basel, Switzerland.

"It unleashed all that joy. It was my most important goal," said Lahm, especially since it came immediately after his error. "In the moments leading up to 2-2, I certainly looked bad. It happens to me too."

And after so many thrilling finishes at the championships. this one topped it all.

"Totally crazy feeling," Germany coach Joachim Loew said. "It was unbelievable. It was a crazy, incredible drama with all these goals in the final minutes."

Turkey has had its share of crazy finishes, too, scoring late to beat Switzerland and the Czech Republic in the first round, and then getting a late goal to force penalties against Croatia in the quarter-finals.

"It was very tough to come back after 2-2. They always score in the last minute," Loew said. "It showed that we have the right mentality. It was a class goal to settle it."

Still, six years after getting to the semifinals of the World Cup, Turkey is back.

"It showed the world what a good team we are. We are leaving as the most colourful team," Terim said.

Germany will play the winner of today's semi between Spain and Russia in Vienna on Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

O'Neal too much for Raps to resist

Ford, Nesterovic headed to Indiana

It appears T.J. Ford's days in Toronto are done.

On the eve of the NBA draft, Raptors president and GM Bryan Colangelo reportedly agreed in principle to a deal to send Ford, plus Rasho Nesterovic, the team's No. 17 pick in tonight's draft, and a player to be named later to Indiana for forward Jermaine O'Neal.

The deal cannot be finalized until July 1, when Ford's base-year compensation tag comes off the books.

Earlier in the day, Colangelo said he was in the midst of four or five conversations with teams involving the point guard, saying he and Ford had come to an amicable agreement at season's end to find him another team.

"We're talking about a player in T.J. that's an asset, a starting point guard in the NBA," Colangelo said. "There's been a lot of interest, and teams that have called and inquired have not put deals on the table that have been insulting in any regard. In fact, it's pretty apparent that T.J.'s value is very high."

O'Neal is a six-time all-star, but is coming off a couple of injury-plagued seasons, playing just 42 games for Indiana this past season because of a wonky knee. He will earn $44 million US over the next two seasons. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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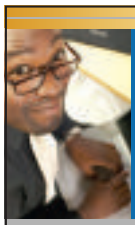

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Djokovic, Dancevic done at Wimbledon

Serbian star easily handled by Safin

ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Serbia's Novak Djokovic shows his frustration during a straight sets loss to Russia's Marat Safin yesterday at Wimbledon.

Novak Djokovic of Serbia was upset in straight sets by Marat Safin in the second round yesterday, ending the Serb's chances of testing his theory about Roger Federer's vulnerability at Wimbledon.

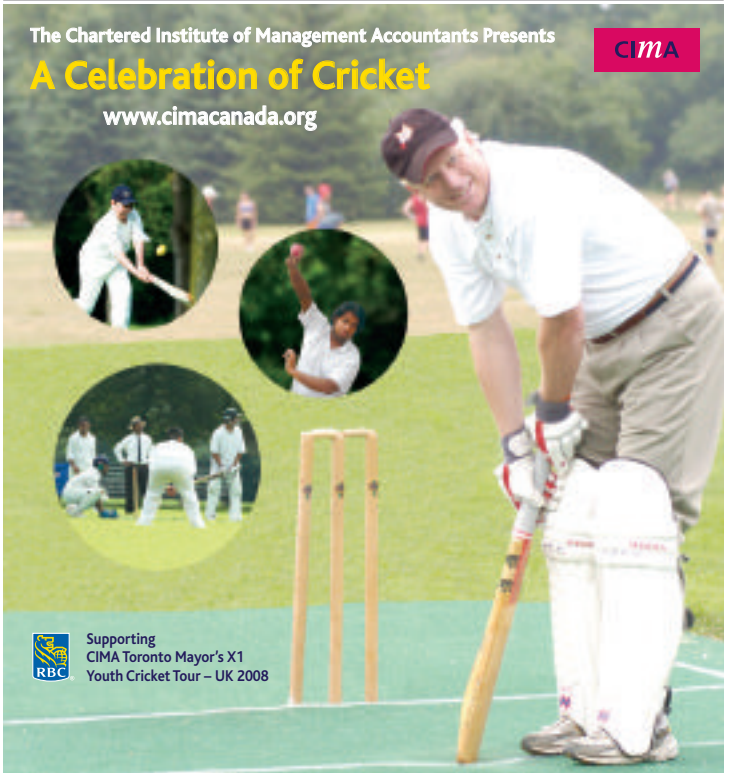
The 75th-ranked Russian won 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-2 on Centre Court. It was a stunning loss for the third-ranked Djokovic, who came to the All England Club confident after beating Federer in the semifinals at this year's Australian Open en route to his first Grand Slam tournament title.

Federer only had a minor hiccup — dropping serve once, the first time since Roland Garros — before getting past Robin Soderling of Sweden 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (3) to extend his streak on grass to 61. The top-ranked Swiss looked anything but vulnerable as he continued his bid for a sixth straight Wimbledon title.

Meantime, Canadian Frank Dancevic is also out. The Niagara Falls, Ont., native, who needed treatment on an apparent abdominal injury during the match, lost 4-6, 7-6 (10), 6-4, 6-4 to American Bobby Reynolds.

Women's No. 1 Ana Ivanovic of Serbia struggled but won. The French Open champion saved two match points — including one that bounced off the net cord for a winner — in the second set before overcoming 29-year-old Frenchwoman Nathalie Dechy 6-7 (2), 7-6 (3), 10-8.

Two-time champion Serena Williams of the U.S. had less trouble, advancing 6-4, 6-4 over Urszula Radwanska of Poland. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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The Tampa Bay Lightning and star centre Vincent Lecavalier, right, are closing in on a nine-year contract extension. Media reports say the deal will be worth between $75-$80 million US. THE ASSOCIATED PRESSS

»sports In Brief

» **NHL** The San Jose Sharks got off to a head start on their off-season moves, re-signing forwards Joe Pavelski and Jeremy Roenick and backup goaltender Brian Boucher yesterday, six days before the start of the free-agency period. Roenick and Boucher, who each received a one-year contract, would have become unrestricted free agents on July 1. Pavelski, who would have been a restricted free agent, got a two-year deal from the Sharks.

» **NHL** The Phoenix Coyotes acquired tough guy Brian McGrattan from the Ottawa Senators yesterday in exchange for a fifth-round draft pick in 2009. McGrattan, 26, has 287 penalty minutes in 143 career NHL games.

» **MLB** Curt Schilling kept open the possibility of returning to the Red Sox, but said yesterday he'll wait about four months before deciding whether to continue his career following shoulder surgery. The surgery revealed no significant rotator cuff damage in the 41-year-old's shoulder.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Leafs not done with makeover, GM says

Team expects to be active on free-agent market

As Darcy Tucker, Kyle Wellwood and Andrew Raycroft try not to let the door hit them on the way out of the Air Canada Centre, general manager Cliff Fletcher sits inside, ready to welcome the new faces he believes will lead the Leafs back to contention.

Tucker will have his buyout papers in a few days, Wellwood was claimed by the goal-starved Vancouver Canucks and Raycroft cleared waivers, with his future to be determined by the weekend.

"I think they (the Leafs) are just going in a different direction," Wellwood said. "They're looking for different types of players. They're trying to shake things up a bit."

Indeed, the remodelling of the Maple Leafs continues at breakneck speed. Fletcher expects the Mats Sundin situation to be cleared up by the weekend.

Wellwood

Sundin told reporters in Sweden that he hadn't yet made up his mind to return, much less consider an offer from the Montreal Canadiens. The Leafs haven't heard from Sundin since they gave Montreal exclusive negotiating rights.

"I'm sure we'll have news on the weekend, which is still 48 hours from free agency (July 1)," said Fletcher. "He knows what the situation in Toronto is. If he decided he didn't want to go to Montreal, there's nothing precluding him from signing with us."

Among his free-agent pursuits on July 1, Fletcher will need to find a backup to replace Raycroft should the team buy him out. Alex Auld or Wade Dubielewicz are possibilities. Scott Clemmensen won't be offered a contract.

Fletcher won't send Raycroft to the Marlies, where Justin Pogge is going to get the lion's share of work. Recently signed rookie James Reimer, a fourth-round pick from the Red Deer Rebels in the 2006 draft, is coming in as backup.

"We're going to find out if Pogge is our goaltender of the future," the GM said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	48	32	.600	—
Tampa Bay	45	31	.592	1
N.Y. Yankees	41	36	.532	5½
Baltimore	39	36	.520	6½
TORONTO	**37**	**41**	**.474**	**10**

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Sox	42	34	.553	—
Minnesota	41	36	.532	1½
Detroit	36	40	.474	6
Cleveland	35	42	.455	7½
Kansas City	35	43	.449	8

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Angels	48	30	.615	—
Oakland	42	34	.553	5
Texas	39	39	.500	9
Seattle	28	50	.359	20

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	42	36	.538	—
Florida	40	36	.526	1
N.Y. Mets	38	39	.494	3½
Atlanta	39	41	.488	4
Washington	30	49	.380	12½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	48	29	.623	—
St. Louis	45	33	.577	3½
Milwaukee	43	35	.551	5½
Pittsburgh	37	40	.481	11
Houston	36	41	.468	12
Cincinnati	35	43	.449	13½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Arizona	40	38	.513	—
L.A. Dodgers	35	41	.461	4
San Francisco	33	44	.429	6½
Colorado	32	46	.410	8
San Diego	32	46	.410	8

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

INTERLEAGUE

Cincinnati at **TORONTO**
N.Y. Mets 8 Seattle 2
Arizona at Boston
N.Y. Yankees at Pittsburgh
St. Louis at Detroit
San Francisco at Cleveland
Tampa Bay at Florida
L.A. Angels at Washington
Texas at Houston
Baltimore at Chicago Cubs
Colorado at Kansas City
Minnesota at San Diego
Philadelphia at Oakland
Chicago Sox at L.A. Dodgers
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Atlanta 4 Milwaukee 2

TODAY'S GAMES

INTERLEAGUE

Tampa Bay at Florida, 12:10
St. Louis at Detroit, 1:05
Baltimore at Chicago Cubs, 2:20
Chicago Sox at L.A. Dodgers, 3:10
Minnesota at San Diego, 3:35
Philadelphia at Oakland, 3:35
N.Y. Yankees at Pittsburgh, 7:05
San Francisco at Cleveland, 7:05
Cincinnati at **TORONTO**, 7:07
Texas at Houston, 8:05

AL BATTING LEADERS

Name, team	AB	R	H	AVG
Bradley Tex	221	47	73	.330
Mauer Min	249	46	81	.325
Rodriguez NYY	213	40	69	.324
Matsui NYY	251	37	81	.323
Damon NYY	282	45	91	.323
Polanco Det	264	37	83	.314
Hamilton Tex	313	50	97	.310
Morneau Min	298	42	92	.309
Drew Bos	227	54	70	.308
Dejesus KC	244	35	75	.307

NL BATTING LEADERS

Name, team	AB	R	H	AVG
Jones Atl	253	48	100	.395
Berkman Hou	274	68	98	.358
Pujols StL	222	41	77	.347
Holliday Col	244	40	81	.332
Martin LAD	261	38	82	.314
Nady Pgh	245	36	77	.314
Theriot ChiC	281	43	88	.313
Guzman Wash	337	45	105	.312
Loney LAD	280	37	87	.311
Molina SF	251	25	78	.311

CFL

WEEK 1

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Montreal at Hamilton, 7
B.C. at Calgary, 10

TOMORROW'S GAME

TORONTO at Winnipeg, 8

SATURDAY'S GAME

Edmonton at Saskatchewan, 7:30

MLS

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER GAMES FEATURING TORONTO FC:

SATURDAY'S GAME

TORONTO at New England, 7:30

CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUALIFYING GAMES FEATURING TORONTO FC:

TUESDAY'S GAME

Vancouver at **TORONTO**, 4

EURO 2008

SEMIFINALS

YESTERDAY'S RESULT

Germany 3 Turkey 2

TODAY'S GAME

Russia vs. Spain, 2:45

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

SUNDAY

Germany vs. Russia/Spain winner, 2:45

LOTTERIES

Results not available at press time.

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metro
LOYALTY REWARDS
Thursday, June 26, 2008

Rewarding loyal customers

Credit card firms, banks offer many different incentives

Let's say you were walking through a store and you came across a pair of shoes you really wanted, but it was expensive enough for you to say, "Well, I don't really need them." But what if buying those shoes earned you points towards something bigger in the future, such as movie passes or plane tickets? All of a sudden, that price tag may not seem so high.

That's basically how loyalty and reward programs work: In exchange for shopping exclusively with a retailer or by paying a certain way, customers are in turn rewarded with points they can turn in for luxury items. And Canadians have been participating in them for years — Canadian Tire has been doling out their own dollars and cents since 1958.

Loyalty programs boost profits and provide research for big businesses — and each of them have different rewards initiatives based on the type of customer they're trying to attract. Metro asked major banks and credit card companies across the country to present some of their most successful rewards programs. Here's what we came up with from the ones that responded to our queries, and you can compare them:

SCOTIABANK: It has a few, but its most dynamic is their Scene program, according to John Doig, senior vice-president of marketing, sales and service. It's a joint venture with Cineplex targeted at movie-goers and has gained more than 810, 000 members in 12 months. Customers get an immediate 10 per cent off on movie concessions and earn points through buying tickets at Cineplex theatres. Rewards include free movie admissions.

CIBC: This bank boasts its Aerogold Visa card — one of the country's biggest — as its most valuable rewards initiative. On average, 2,000 Aerogold members fly for free every day, says Ernie Johannson, senior vice-president of marketing for CIBC retail markets. Cardholders earn one mile for every dollar spent, redeemable for flights and other reward items. Other features include guaranteed hotel reservations, insurance coverage and discounted car rentals. The bank recently launched a program where customers get 1.5 miles per dollar if they shop at gas, grocery or drug stores.

RBC: One-stop shopping is the name of the game with RBC's Visa Avion program. Customers earn points through use of the card and can then redeem points for travel with any airline, merchandise, gift cards (among them Future Shop, Golf Town and Starbucks) and can even contribute to RRSPs, RESPs or mortgage and loan payments. The program also lets the more altruistic consumer make donations to charities.

BMO: This bank has gone beyond the use of points with credit cards and expanded into debit card use. Its customers can now collect Air Miles by paying with their BMO debit card. BMO media rep Ralph Marranca says a major reason for this was that last year, the number of debit transactions in Canada surpassed the number of credit card transactions for the first time. One of their biggest credit card programs, Marranca notes, is the revamped BMO Mosaik Gold MasterCard, where customers can get a 20 per cent discount on Air Miles redemptions, among other benefits.

COLORBLIND IMAGES

Many banks and credit card companies offer travel rewards as part of their loyalty programs.

TD: The bank's TD Visa Infinite Card touts variety as its major selling point, offering cardholders "book any way" flexibility, travel insurance and services. You can apply your points — three TD points for every $1 you spend on the card — towards deals or promotions with the travel agency, hotel or airline of their choice.

AMEX: This credit card company's AeroplanPlus program offers one travel rewards mile for every dollar spent on the card (Gold members get 1.25 miles per dollar after they've purchased $10,000 with the card within a year). In addition, AMEX offers a Blue Sky credit card, where members pay no annual fees and can redeem their rewards for any airline, hotel, cruise or car rental. Cardholders get 1.25 Blue Sky Points for every $1 of purchases on the card, and free redeemable travel starts at 10,000 points.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Accessibility key aspect of successful programs

Must be able to exchange points for rewards quickly

Initiatives to get your exclusive business are a dime a dozen: Everywhere you look, companies and retailers offer you bonus miles, points, exclusive deals and club memberships. But businesses know that a customer's wants evolve and so must their programs to keep you interested in investing your time and money with them. Here's a look at what the experts call some of the latest trends in loyalty and rewards, and what the successful ones should have.

Reward programs, retail or otherwise, do huge business in Canada, so much so that setting up shop in this country without one is next to unthinkable. The Hudson's Bay Company, for example, offers its HBC Rewards program through all its outlets: The Bay, Zellers and Home Outfitters. It also offers its program through Esso gas stations.

WILLIAM THOMAS CAIN/GETTY IMAGES

Younger collectors of rewards points are more likely to trade them in for technology and short trips, experts say.

Kelly Hlavinka, managing partner of Colloquy, a Cincinnati, Ohio-based loyalty marketing researcher, says 9 out of 10 Canadians participate in some manner of rewards program (as opposed to 5 out of 10 in the U.S.).

"Canadian customers are clearly looking for more value when they spend their money," she says. "More consumers are expecting loyalty and reward programs from the companies with which they do business."

Accessibility is of key importance, says Neil Everett, senior vice-president and chief marketing officer of Air Miles. For a loyalty program to succeed, customers must be able to exchange their points for rewards fairly quickly after signing up, and there has to be a wide range of redeemable items for different consumers. Boomers, for example, are trading in for flights and cruises, families exchange for amusement park passes, and younger collectors (under 30) are choosing technology and short trips.

"It's starting with identifying your customer and the kind of loyalty you're trying to create, and tied to that is your business objective," said Everett. "You have to create the right incentive and aspirations and make it attainable."

Hlavinka forecasts a bright future for reward programs. More of them will be geared towards women (otherwise known as the primary financial decision-maker in consumer data collecting circles) and technological items such as mobile phones will be more in demand. Experience rewards such as trips will continue to be among the most popular, resulting in a wider range of travel packages being offered.

Soothsaying aside, she notes that a good rewards program, at its heart, should be an accurate reflection of how its customers spend their money.

"It's really a direct result of what customers are engaging in, and the different items they're redeeming their points for," she says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Beware of Big Brother?

Firms not likely to mine your details, privacy expert says

By **BRIAN TOWIE**
Metro Toronto

GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

What happens with your personal information when you scan your loyalty and rewards card at the grocery store?

You know the drill: You head to the checkout with your shopping basket and give the salesperson your loyalty and rewards card. They scan it, you pay, and you're that much closer to your reward.

Understand, however, that these types of programs are often two-way streets, and there's a price for the extra benefits you can get: While you're racking up bonus miles and points, retailers are keeping track in their own way by recording your purchasing information — and are privy to data that can tell them when and where you've shopped, how much you've spent, and even the items you've bought.

"They (businesses) can take a look at your transactions and see that you may have a lot of money for discretionary spending and then market to you accordingly," says Michael Janigan, executive director and general counsel with the Public Interest Advocacy Centre in Ottawa. "Or they might look and see that you pay by Visa for amounts as low as $7 — you may be accessible to advertisements for payday loans. There's a whole wealth of information that can be mined in that circumstance. What is marketed to the customer as an incentive to shop at a store is actually something quite different."

You can get a fair idea of what businesses are looking at by the kind of junk mail you get, but would it be possible for a marketer, if they were interested in finding out, to electronically rifle through your shopping basket to find out what kind of condoms you're buying? In some programs, yes. While federal privacy laws under PIPEDA (Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act) dictate businesses require your consent to collect or even disclose such information, contracts with these types of programs are entirely one-sided, says Janigan.

But big business retailers and service companies are often too busy to care about the fine details of your spending habits, says David Fraser, a privacy lawyer with Halifax-based firm McInnes Cooper — noting in-house loyalty programs (a store that sets up and runs its own, for example) are more likely to mine specific information for inventory purposes than those offered across several stores.

A 2002 investigation by the federal Privacy Commissioner found that Air Miles — Canada's largest rewards program at 9.8 million members and counting — collects only basic data from the transaction: The date, store address and name, dollar value, number of miles earned and occasionally the category of purchase and the type of Air Miles card carried.

With the wide popularity of loyalty programs (more than eight million people have Shoppers Drug Mart's Optimum card, for instance), Fraser adds businesses have too much to lose by scrutinizing your personal spending habits. The last thing they want is for you to opt out of their initiative.

"Not everybody is concerned about privacy, but in Canada enough are that it just doesn't make business sense to alienate those people," says Fraser. "They (merchants) get some value from disclosing that information to marketing companies, but the value that they get is not overridden by the damage to the relationship with the customer if they did it without their OK."

» For a list of privacy rights resources online, read this article online at *metronews.ca*.

Many ways to maximize your points

By **RAFAEL BRUSILOW**
for Metro Toronto

Saving up your reward points for free flights and TVs is an admirable goal, but what if you don't have enough points for the big stuff? Fear not — there are many ways to stretch your reward spending.

The first thing to do is make sure your reward card is giving you the best reward returns on your purchases. Spending a few bucks on annual fees might be worth it to give you the best collection rate for points.

For example, Aeroplan gives users up to double or triple the amount of points, depending on what level of program-approved credit card you use for purchases, while BMO offers a similar reward structure with a Bronze Mosaic Air Miles card.

The next thing to do is realize you don't have to save up thousands of miles just to get some use out of your points. Air Miles customers, for instance, can trade points for gift cards, grocery cards and gas cards. Even as few as 25 Air Miles can get you a movie pass.

Perry Schwartz, senior manager of public relations for Air Miles, says the reward system is designed to let people choose rewards they can use on a daily basis.

"It's built around everyday spending. If people just do what they're doing every day, they can hit that 25 miles reward rather quickly," Schwartz said.

BMO also offers Air Miles rewards using your debit card from a savings account, and most rewards programs give regular promotions such as seasonal discounts of flights booked using reward miles. Retail stores frequently run bonus reward miles promotions too, so keep an eye out for chances to rack up a few extra points with your grocery or drugstore purchase.

While several websites allow you to consolidate your reward points from different sources, be aware that most of them take a heavy cut of your points in the exchange, sometimes as much as 50 per cent. Do your research, pick the reward point program that is right for you and stick with it to maximize the spending power of your points.

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Think about bigger picture when spending points

By **RAFAEL BRUSILOW**
for Metro Toronto

Got plenty of points but don't know what to spend them on? Maybe you need to try thinking big, or really small.

While many expensive toys can certainly qualify as unique purchases — 12,000 Air Miles can net you an electric scooter, for instance — there are plenty of uniquely practical ways to spend your points.

If you've got kids, spending them on family passes to an amusement park will probably be a lot more memorable than another towel set, for instance.

As for big ideas, giving to others is one of the most meaningful, so why not put your reward points to good use by making a donation to charity? Most redemption programs now offer the chance to convert your points into cash donations. If Kids Help Phone or the Special Olympics are important to you, for example, Air Miles runs a program where you can turn 170 reward miles into a $20 donation.

Interesting options aren't just the realm of the big stuff either. Grocery, gas and movie gift cards may not be as flashy, but they can give a lot of bang for your buck as a way to spend your last few points on something useful.

Recently, Air Miles introduced the option for its users to buy iTunes cards, an idea Air Miles' senior public relations manager Perry Schwartz says might not have been thought of years ago but which grew right out of customer suggestions.

"Where we go in terms of rewards is wherever the customer is going. The iTunes thing is definitely a trend we jumped on," Schwartz said.

Despite the growing availability of product options, flights to exotic locales and package vacations are still one of the most customizable reward options and are resurging in popularity, Schwartz says.

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Bell Mobility has launched a trial program where cellphones can be used to make purchases through MasterCard PayPass.

PayPass not just for cards anymore

MasterCard customers can now turn their cellphones into credit cards using Bell Mobility's network.

The mobile network giant launched a four-month trial program where enabled phones will be able to make secure purchases at Canadian merchant locations that accept MasterCard PayPass. Customers make transactions by tapping their phones against PayPass terminals at the point-of-sale.

Should the phone be lost or stolen, customers will receive the same fraud protection of conventional MasterCard payments, using password-protected applications should they lose their handsets.

MasterCard Canada said in a statement that ease of shopping was a key factor in the initiative, and it expects a "significant impact on the way services are paid for at the point of sale in the future."

Almis Ledas, vice-president of corporate development for Bell Mobility, said in a statement that the company will share trial findings through their existing partnerships with other wireless carriers, and use the trial to "validate the technology's ability to meet Canadians' high expectations for security, simplicity and convenience."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Thursday, June 26, 2008

THE BEACH GARDENER

Waterfalls are among the design elements being used to smarten up the humble backyard swimming pool.

» 26

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clippings

Irrigate even the most irregularly shaped garden (up to 380 square metres) without wasting water or repositioning your sprinkler multiple times. The new Gardena AquaContour Automatic Sprinkler stores up to 50 programmable contour points and two separate lawn configurations, allowing homeowners to water both their front and back gardens with the touch of a button. $279, Rona Home & Garden; visit *rona.ca* for store locator. (While not all locations have the sprinkler in-store, any location can order it.)

notable plant

'ELDORADO' FEATHER REED GRASS (Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Eldorado')

- This sport of award-winning "Karl Foerster" grass (C. x a. "Karl Foerster") has unusual variegated foliage, which is gold with green margins and grows upright in sturdy clumps that will stand Mountie-straight. In early summer, it develops attractive, upright, wheat-like, tan-coloured seedheads, which persist into winter.
- Size — 1.2 to 1.5 m high by 1 m wide.
- Cultivation — does best in full sun and well-drained soil. Water more frequently in very hot weather. In spring, cut back foliage to 15 centimetres when new growth begins; propagate by division.
- Zone 5

— ANNE MARIE VAN NEST

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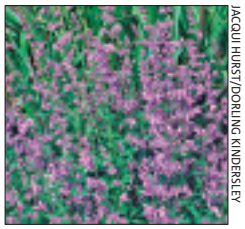
Calamagrostis x acutiflora "Eldorado'



KIM STUART/RON RULE CONSULTANTS

Make a splash

Landscape architect Ron Rule champions the water feature

by **CAROL GARDNER**
contributing writer

After several years designing public and corporate landscapes, Vancouver-based Ron Rule began working with newly arrived Asians who wanted estate gardens. As their connections to the land were very strong, integrating the garden with its surroundings was pivotal to these clients, who valued their gardens every bit as much as their homes; they wanted them to look natural and simply could not relate to linear, symmetrical, man-made landscapes. Those experiences, along with his trips to Europe and his inspiration from gardening books, had a powerful influence on Rule's design aesthetic. His goal is to design gardens that perfectly reflect the home, the land and the people who live there. Furthermore, Rule believes water features — be they pools, ponds or fountains — are the strongest single element in a garden because the look, sound and movement of water has a profound effect on our senses.

"Of all the great gardens I've toured," he says, "I've only loved one that didn't have a water feature — and it needed one." They become the centrepiece of the landscape and, as such, Rule believes they must blend in with the rest of the features, looking as if they've always been there.

POOLSIDE PARTNERS Plants that put up with some wayward chlorine

JACQUI HURST/DORLING KINDERSLEY

TOM BONAVENTURE

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IMAGE SOURCE

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

From left, Nepeta faassenii "Six Hills Giant," yarrow (Achillea sp.), purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea), Russian sage (Perovskia atriplicifolia "Blue Spire") and an assortment of hostas.

These plants can tolerate the chlorine found around most pools: yarrow (Achillea cvs.) Zone 2; Siberian Peashrub (Caragana arborescens cvs.) Zone 2; purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea) Zone 3; hosta (Hosta cvs.) Zone 2; juniper (Juniperus cvs.) Zone 2; Maiden grass (Miscanthus sinensis cvs.) Zone 4; Catmint (Nepeta spp.) Zone 3; Russian sage (Perovskia atriplicifolia) Zone 4; moss rose (Portulaca grandiflora), annual; sage (Salvia cvs.) Zone 3.

— ANNE MARIE VAN NEST

clippings Armchair gardeners can brush up on their succulent studies

ROGER YIP

HARDY SUCCULENTS: TOUGH PLANTS FOR EVERY CLIMATE by Gwen Kelaidis, Storey Publishing, 160 pages, softcover, $21.95. Considering the continued interest in succulents, this timely publication is a great introduction to a fascinating group of plants. The author draws on her passion and years of experience to deliver extensive cultural information and highlight many of her favourites. And while a number of specimens must be considered tropical in Canada, readers should not be deterred, as Kelaidis also discusses how to successfully grow succulents in containers (though, unfortunately, does not talk about overwintering them). The book further inspires us to cultivate these reliable, tough plants with both its beautiful images of individual plants and delightful combinations. You can also plan travel routes around Kelaidis' list of Where To See Succulents, which provides information on the best public gardens for viewing across the U.S. Hardy Succulents is a welcome addition to my reference book collection.

— PAUL ZAMMIT

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Soaking up pool pizzazz

Taking a dip in a backyard pool has never looked so refreshing.

Today's pools aren't all the energy guzzlers or chemical soups of the past — like cars, new technologies have created efficient systems to treat and clean the pool, as well as light and heat it.

And the desire for a personalized outdoor living space has some people bringing home more than snapshots from their vacations. T.J. Moreland of Merlin Industries, a pool product supplier in Hamilton, N.J., notes that homeowners often want to incorporate elements they've seen from hotels or water parks — submerged bar stools, liners patterned like aquariums, or even depictions of favourite activities.

"We made a liner look like a baseball field, complete with infield, bases, and home run distances on the pool walls."

Here are some updates for inground and aboveground pools:

CHLORINE ALTERNATIVES

Salt does a good job of keeping water clean and preventing algae, and costs considerably less than standard chlorine treatments. Ultra violet light also breaks down harmful materials, and bromine is touted as a less harsh chemical additive.

Ozonators, which have been widely used in European pools for years, are finding favour in North America now as an alternative for those sensitive to chemicals. Ozone is an effective remover of sunscreen and body oil, and also destroys cryptosporidium, which can cause intestinal upset.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Solar heating systems help reduce heating costs, although their effectiveness depends on the pool's location. Hammacher Schlemmer's floating solar heating rings can raise the water temperature a few degrees in a week when covering 70 per cent of the water's surface.

CREATIVE LIGHTING

Innovations in lighting now allow pool owners to move beyond the single white light at the bottom of the deep end. Quartz halogens, halides, fibre optics and LED systems provide outlets for creativity — perhaps a sequence of changing colours dancing around the pool, or a neon-bright perimeter.

WET DECKS

Wet decks are another new trend; basically wide, submerged steps, wet decks make it easy for young children, seniors, and even pets to safely enjoy the pool without swimming. They're popular as gathering spots as well, and can be built with umbrella housings and non-slip surfaces.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Glass tiles, like these Renaissance Collection Peacock glass tile by Lightstreams Glass Tile, are becoming popular options for pool decor.

Joe Vassallo of Paragon Pools in Las Vegas introduced the WetFlame, a torch-like fire pit that also spills water into a pool, for a 2000 luxury home tour. "It's become a must-have with high end designs ever since."

MODERN SHAPES

Naturalistic, freeform pools have been popular in recent years, but Vassallo says there's another trend among his clientele.

"They are leaning toward a more contemporary casual style; more geometric than lagoon, and incorporating materials like travertine and flagstone. Glass tiles are re-emerging with more colours, and mosaics and pavers are replacing concrete decking."

The vanishing or infinity edge suits this style, as well as the addition of dramatic fountains, glasslike spillways or multicoloured fountains.

SMALL SWIMS

Lap pools work well on small or narrow lots or for the fitness conscious; many install a continuous current system for maximum benefit. There are portable versions that just attach to the edge when it's lap time. And for those with very limited space, or no desire to actually swim, there is the "spool" - a combination spa and small pool that serves more as a splash and soak environment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Making a splash with outdoor swim space

If you think a backyard pool means a rectangular or kidney-shaped pool with a blue liner, think again. Pools these days can be so much more. The design team is thrilled to see some exciting new trends emerging in this area.

ARRESTING DESIGN
JEFFREY FISHER & TAMMY SCHNURR
busted@arrestingdesign.com

Pools were often thought of as purely recreational space for swimming, floating, splashing, playing volleyball, performing cannonballs, and the like. They still are, but they can also be designed to look like natural pools so they fit seamlessly into the environment. They can be designed as a spa, with water jets, seating and temperature controls. They can be lap pools for cardiovascular fitness, and so much more.

Concrete in-ground pools remain expensive, starting around $50,000 for a small pool, (less for other types of liners) but we are finding that people seem to be more willing to spend their recreational dollars at home. After all, the regular drive to the cottage or the gas-guzzling flight to a tropical location will likely become more painful as the price of gas goes up.

And to tell the truth, nobody needs to feel as if they're getting less. We've seen some gorgeous trends in pools —ones that will make the backyard an absolute pleasure to enjoy privately and with many appreciative visitors. These days, there are many ways to create magical places. You won't ever want to leave your home!

One of the newest trends is a "negative edge" or infinity edge pool, with one edge that looks as if it is absent. In reality, the water flows over this edge into a basin, where it is re-circulated back into the pool. The look is stunning in the right environment — such as looking out over a body of water or out from a high place with a vista. Another emerging look is "perimeter overflow" in which the water surface is flush with the decking or stonework surrounding the pool, flowing down invisibly into small basins at the pool's edge. It looks as if a large reflective mirror has been artfully placed in your backyard and is absolutely stunning.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE PHOTO

Waterfalls over stones adds a touch of drama to your backyard pool oasis.

Fountains and waterfalls over stones add drama, set into a natural environment, as if the pool were put there by Mother Nature herself. Or you can opt for a contemporary look — say, a concrete support that sends water cascading into the pool in a perfectly smooth sheet of water. Either way, a water feature like this not only looks beautiful, the trickling or splashing sound provides a soothing background noise that masks urban noises.

Lighting can also add a special touch — from floating solar lights that feature shifting colours, to perimeter lighting, to underwater lighting to illuminate bubbling jets. Automated programmable music adds to the experience, from soothing spa sounds to a laid-back jazz evenings.

Exposed stone is also a gorgeous natural look, and concrete embedded with pebbles and stones can look natural as well.

Another emerging idea popular with families with children or elderly users is the sloped beach-like entrance, rather than steps or a ladder to enter the water. A shallow "wet-deck" type of pool is great for little ones, but also for adults who want to laze about on their loungers, half-submerged while they sip a cold one, or just nap. This sounds like a great backyard vacation to us!

Tammy Schnurr and Jeffrey Fisher are hosts of Arresting Design on W Network.

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Dealing with the inevitable

When must parts of your home be replaced?

How long will your roof last? When will your kitchen appliances need to be replaced? Will your furnace make it through another heating season? Knowing the life expectancy of your home's building components can help you determine how to deal with the inevitable.

APPLIANCES

According to a U.S. National Association of Home Builders study, you can expect your gas range to last 15 years; clothes dryers and refrigerators should last about 13; microwave ovens and dishwashers nine; and trash compactors about six years. Keeping appliances clean will help them operate more efficiently. Keeping your refrigerator's coils and door gasket clean will make for a better seal, cut down on energy loss and prevent wear and tear on the motor. When it comes to the dishwasher, the more you use it, the longer it is likely to operate. Infrequent use causes gaskets to dry out and results in leaks.

CONCRETE AND MASONRY

Masonry is one of the most durable components of a home. Chimneys, fireplaces and brick veneers can last a lifetime, and brick walls have an average life expectancy of more than 100 years. You can extend the life of your fireplace and chimney by burning only seasoned, dry hardwood.

Have a chimneysweep inspect it once annually or after burning a cord of wood, whichever comes first. Seal brick, concrete and masonry with a high-quality concrete and masonry sealer.

DECKS

The life expectancy of a wooden deck can vary dramatically depending upon many factors such as climate, sun exposure, deck construction and finish. There are a few very common mistakes that people make when it comes to building and maintaining a deck that are sure to hasten its demise.

First, the lowest portion of the deck framing should be no less than 20 centimetres from the soil to prevent rot and pest damage. Deck boards should never be face nailed or screwed to the framing as this tears the wood fibre and acts as an entrance source for water to damage both the decking and framing. Using a hidden deck fastener from below will prevent this condition. Keep the deck clean and add a new coat of finish every three to five years.

FLOORING

Wood, marble, granite and slate are the most durable floor finishes with projected life expectancy of 100 years or more. Although the NAHB study finds that vinyl and linoleum floors will last about 50 and 25 years respectively, it's more likely that you will grow tired of their appearance and rip them out well before. Average quality carpet is rated to have a life of eight to 10 years according to the study. When purchasing carpet keep in mind that the better the grade the longer it will last. It is not unusual for good carpet to last 20 to 30 years.

A U.S. study says that a quality wood floor is among the most durable flooring surfaces and has a projected life expectancy of 100 years.

HEATING/AC

Heating and air conditioning systems typically last 15 to 25 years. Truth is, advancements in efficiency can make replacement after 10 to 15 years a smart decision.

Until you're ready for a high-efficiency upgrade, you can keep your heating and cooling system in peak operating condition by regularly changing filters (every one to three months), cleaning and adjusting burners and by keeping shrubbery trimmed surrounding the air conditioner's condensing unit.

ROOFING

If you have a slate, copper, clay or concrete roof, chances are good that it will last 50 to 100 years. However, some 70 per cent of homeowners have a roof made of asphalt shingles, so be prepared to replace the roof after about 20 years, more or less. Cleanliness is again the key to longevity. Trim overhanging trees and keep valleys free of debris. Equally important is good attic ventilation. Aside from helping lower your utility bill it can prevent roofing material from sustaining damage due to extreme heat in summer and prevent ice dams in winter.

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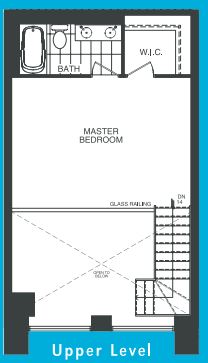

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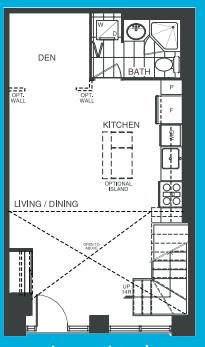

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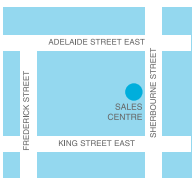

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Land transfer tax explained

First-time buyers eligible to receive tax breaks

LEGAL MATTERS
JEFFREY D. COWAN
jeff@cowanandtaylor.com

Q I am a first-time homebuyer in Toronto and I am entirely confused about what land transfer tax is and how much I will have to pay:

A For many first-time homebuyers, the new Toronto Municipal Land Transfer Tax (MLTT) and the existing Provincial Land Transfer Tax (PLTT) can be difficult to understand and potentially provide a barrier to buying your first home. Here are some tips you should know when setting out a budget for that transaction:

» If you are a first-time homebuyer and your purchase price is under $400,000, you are exempt from paying the MLTT. Even if the price is over this threshold, you will get a rebate on the first $400,000 of tax owing.

» If you are a first-time homebuyer and you are purchasing a new construction, you automatically receive up to a $2,000 rebate from the province under PLTT. Even if you are purchasing from an owner who is reselling a new home, as long as the property has had no one reside in it, you may still be eligible to receive this rebate.

» The Ministry of Finance is now implementing a new rebate for resale homes up to $2,000 for first-time homebuyers. The catch here is that you have to pay the full tax on closing and then wait for the proposed Bill to be passed into law before you get that rebate back from the Ontario government.

First-time homebuyers, whose purchase price is under $400,000, are exempt from paying the new Toronto Municipal Land Transfer Tax,

» If you are purchasing the property with a partner/spouse you may be eligible for a partial rebate if one of you has owned a home before 'any where in the world' while the other is a first-time homebuyer.

» The general rule of thumb if you are not a first-time purchaser is that both the MLTT and PLTT are approximately each 1.5 per cent of the purchase price.

However, this is a sliding scale making the taxes greater for more expensive properties (tax the rich and feed the poor).

» The land transfer tax must be paid along with all other expenses on the closing of the transaction.

Regardless if you are eligible to receive a rebate or not, land transfer tax can be a potentially large expense that purchasers must factor into their closing budgets.

Your lawyer can assist you in determining exactly what is payable on closing and should have an up-to-date understanding of Land Transfer Tax regardless of whether you live in Ottawa, Toronto, or Barrie.

Jeffrey D. Cowan is the principal of Cowan & Taylor, Barristers & Solicitors that practice in the areas of business and real estate law.

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Monarch

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Let there be creative light

Innovations in materials and manufacturing have blurred the line between art and function, and nowhere is that more evident than in lighting.

Plastics, composites and natural materials such as wood and glass are bent, cut, moulded and melded into striking shapes.

When a light source is introduced, the resulting fixtures not only illuminate, they inspire.

Big, bold ceiling pendants are emphatic style setters: Bear Creek Glass's Cloud collection features clusters of ethereal globes; smartly tailored cylinders printed with fresh new graphics kick up the chic factor at Design Public.

Large statement pieces and bold patterns are everywhere.

"We are seeing more colour in lamp bases, as well as patterns on the lamp shade, or encompassing the lamp as a whole," says Design Public's Ali Beckford. Pushing the imaginative envelope even further, designer Chris Duffy of Duffy London offers wall-hung light boxes that feature images of chandeliers. Award-winning Patrick Townsend constructs fixtures resembling space satellites.

Many designers are also turning to recycled materials: Vitamin Design's Galiano light features reclaimed fir and a wind-downed twig pull.

Stray Dog Design offers pieces crafted from reused tin, glass and even cement bags.

> ***«Adding a lamp or two with loads of personality is a great way to punch up your interior without spending too much money.»***
>
> *Jane Gray, Stray Dog Designs*

Whimsy finds its way into Urban Peel's huggable light pillow, and Design Public's Pet Lamp Dachshund. Bright and Bold's jellyfish floor lamp looks futuristic, even Seussian.

"Our clients have a sense of humour and a desire to put a little fun into their surroundings," says Jane Gray, head designer at Seattle's Stray Dog designs.

"Adding a lamp or two with loads of personality is a great way to punch up your interior without spending too much money."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP PHOTO/CHRISTIAN THIRION

The Christian Thirion chandelier (*www.chthirion.com*).

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David Trubridge's Koura Pendant is available online at *www.dvr.com*.

AP PHOTO/DESIGN WITHIN REACH

AP PHOTO/INHABIT

Inhabit's Builtby Even Steven lamp.

The Mibo Clacket Lane table lamp retails for about US $160 and is available at *designrepublic.com*.

AP PHOTO/MIBO

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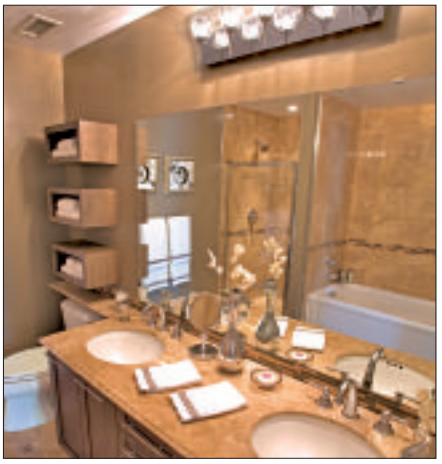
ADVERTISING FEATURE

New York comes to North York



Anyone who has ever dreamed of owning a Manhattan-style maisonette, one of those marvelous homes that combine two-storey living and ground floor convenience with the all the bells and whistles a great condominium offers, should drop by the presentation centre at Sophia this Summer.

Sophia has 19 of these unique suites for sale. Each offers at least two bedrooms, some with dens. Ground floor ceilings are an astonishing 12 feet in height while the second floor ceilings run a full nine feet.

Better yet, each has its own private yard, perfect for entertaining, barbecues and just lying in the sun.

"They are absolutely terrific value," says Mark Cohen, senior vice-president of sales and marketing at The Condo Store Marketing Systems, consultant on the project.

"You can buy a two-storey, two-bedroom, two-bath, 1,205-square-foot home with its own back yard for just $398,900.

"On a price-per-square-foot basis, it is among the best deals north of the city today."

Sophia is the gorgeous new project about to rise near Bathurst and Patricia Street just north of Finch. It is the product of a partnership between Cityzen Development Group and the Myriad Group. The names should ring a bell. Cityzen is also building Pier 27 right on the water at the foot of Yonge Street, and The Shores, again on the water, at the mouth of Bronte Creek in west Oakville.

Architects Page + Steele have created a classically modern, glass and steel, 10-storey tower that makes absolute best use of both inside and outside spaces. Every unit has a generous balcony, patio or terrace. Buyers will be amazed at the range of housing choices offered in a single building, says Cohen. The first and second floors, for example, hold a mix of those large two-storey maisonettes and a series of single-level suites, all with private yards.

The balance of the tower is devoted to a range of sizes and designs from one-bedroom units coming in at just over 600 square feet, right up to three-bedroom suites measuring up to 1,500 square feet.

The range of choices is quite impressive.

Prices are equally appealing. One-bedroom suites start at just $219,990 and two-bedroom units at $319,990.

Now consider what those prices include: Floor-to-ceiling windows, individually controlled heating and air conditioning, architecturally designed suite entries, a choice of spectacular pre-finished engineered wood floors in living, dining areas and den, plus a choice of quality 40 oz. carpet with ½-inch underpad in bedrooms and closets.

Kitchens feature finely crafted cabinetry, complete with taller upper cabinets in a variety of materials and colours, a choice of attractive granite countertops, a choice of ceramic backsplashes, double bowl stainless steel sink with single-lever faucet and pull-out vegetable sprayer, ceiling mounted halogen track lighting, a choice of distinctive ceramic or porcelain floor tiles and six brand name appliances.

And yes, there are amenities such as a fitness centre, party room, concierge service and extras like a Sabbath elevator.

"The location is unbeatable," Cohen adds. "It is in the heart of one of the city's best loved neighborhoods. Go further north or further south and you run into busy street traffic, a real distraction to quiet enjoyment. But Sophia sits in the heart of a quiet, well-established residential neighborhood where you can walk within minutes to parks, places of worship, schools and street-level shopping."

If you need to go further, the 401 is just minutes away by car, as are Highways 404, 407, 400 and the Allen Expressway. Venturing south on Bathurst Street will lead you straight to the heart of the City. TTC buses stop almost at your doorstep.

To see Sophia for yourself, visit the presentation centre on the corner of Bathurst and Patricia.

more online

» Visit *www.sophiacondos.ca* or call 416-777-9998.

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Everything but the kitchen sink

That's possibly what's bacteria-free in your home

If you want to eat dinner from a clean surface, you might try your bathroom.

A study being released Wednesday found that kitchen sinks have more germs than bathroom sinks. The study also found that three-quarters of American kitchen cloths and sponges are heavily contaminated with harmful bacteria, meaning proper clean-up can be difficult.

The study was sponsored by the makers of the cleaning product Lysol, but the company did not design the study.

Samples were taken by independent environmental scientists in 20 homes with children in each of seven regions, including the U.K., the U.S., Germany, Africa, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and India.

Internationally, 90 per cent of kitchen cloths, 46 per cent of kitchen sinks, 38 per cent of bathroom sinks and 14 per cent of children's toys failed the test, meaning they had a total bacteria count of more than 100,000 per square centimetre.

The bacteria included E. coli and salmonella, which were probably carried in by food, small children or pets, researchers said. They can cause diarrhea or infections with flu-like symptons that are especially dangerous to small children, the elderly and pregnant women.

> *« That's why your dog drinks from [the toilet] … he probably looks at you drinking from the kitchen sink and thinks 'Humans. That's just so gross.'" »*
>
> *Charles Gerba*

"Bacteria find a happy home in sponges. When you wipe, you take up food and drink and bacteria can feed on that," said Charles Gerba, an environmental microbiology professor at the University of Arizona who was not involved with the research.

John Oxford, who led the study and is a professor of virology at St Bartholomew's and The Royal London Hospital, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry, warned that families put great effort into cleaning toilets, but not nearly as much time into keeping their kitchens clean.

"You could eat your dinner in a U.S. toilet but there is a lack of appreciation that kitchen sinks can be contaminated with fecal organisms, either coming in with fruit and vegetables or from pets and children," he said.

But keeping clean is not impossible. Dean Cliver, a professor of food safety at the University of California, suggests sterilizing sponges with a one-minute high-powered blast in the microwave, washing hands and avoiding rinsing chicken in the sink.

Or forget sponges entirely — professor Elizabeth Scott of the Simmons Center for Hygiene and Health in Boston recommends cleaning food spills with a paper towel and dumping it.

Ironically, Gerba said his own findings suggest that living like a slob is better than meticulously cleaning the kitchen with a dirty sponge.

A study he carried out 10 years ago found that 10 per cent of kitchen sponges contained salmonella.

One of his most astounding findings was that bachelors had the cleanest kitchens. They just threw their dishes into the kitchen sink and didn't spread bacteria by wiping surfaces.

Another of Gerba's findings was that your post-flush toilet bowl is indeed cleaner than your kitchen sink.

"That's why your dog drinks from it," he said.

"He probably looks at you drinking from the kitchen sink and thinks: 'Humans. That's just so gross.'"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECKITT BENCKISER/LYSOL

A researcher swabbing a home sink for germs.

Kitchen clean-up

» Microwaves: Dean Cliver, a professor of food safety at the University of California, Davis has carried out numerous studies on the cleaning properties of microwaving. A one-minute high-powered blast can keep your sponges and dish cloths sterile. However, he warns that it doesn't work for natural sea sponges. "People think natural is better but it's not always the case," he said.

» Wash your hands: Cliver says he has never seen convincing evidence that hot water works better than cold water for washing your hands. "It feels better but washing your hands in cold water should work just as well," he said.

» Don't rinse chicken: Chicken is so notorious for spreading salmonella and other harmful bacteria that it is no longer recommended that you rinse it in the kitchen sink. Eighty per cent of chicken carry potentially harmful bacteria, and any surface that comes in contact with it should be washed thoroughly, said Professor Elizabeth Scott of the Simmons Center for Hygiene and Health in Boston.

» Toss it: Scott recommends that food spills and juice should be wiped up with a paper towel and dumped.

» Don't drown in chemicals: Scott believes in targeted hygiene. "We should use discretion when spraying chemicals, even if they are FDA-approved and non-toxic," she said. "There's not much point in spraying your windows with anti-bacteria spray."

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

California Condos making a splash at Mystic Pointe

Camrost-Felcorp recently introduced California Condos to a tidal wave of enthusiasm. This incredibly cool new condominium is part of the company's highly successful, established Mystic Pointe community in south Etobicoke.

The distinctive 32-storey building will flood the Etobicoke skyline with distinct west-coast flair, each suite featuring a balcony or terrace offering fabulous lake and city views.

Originally the site of the McGuinness Distillery location, Mystic Pointe is now a hotspot in the GTA condominium scene and is already home to more than 1,500 residents who live in a variety of housing styles, including family-size townhomes, authentic two-storey lofts and new high-rise condos. California Condos will offer the latest opportunity to become a part of this highly sought-after community.

The location is spectacular, just 10 minutes from downtown, in a setting that is as spectacular as its name.

For commuters, major transportation routes such as the QEW, Gardiner Expressway and Highway 427 are close by, as are the Mimico GO Station and TTC.

Mystic Pointe offers resort-style living, with over 75,000 square feet (almost two acres) of indoor and outdoor recreational space at the disposal of community residents. California Condos' design encompasses 12,000 square feet of exclusive amenity space on the top two floors.

In essence, this will be the world's highest Venice Beach Sky Club designed with the eclecticism of west-coast panache.

This area's indoor pool and whirlpool will be enhanced by a bar that overlooks the city and lake. For exercise, residents will also have use of the sky gym, circuit-training auditorium and Pilates/private training room.

For the ultimate in pampering, a private cabana will be available for spa treatments. On the tanning courtyard, movies can be projected on the wall during the Summer to create an open-air theatre — a first at Mystic Pointe. One level below, a private dining room and Sky Lounge with Martini Bar share a dream kitchen.

In addition, California Condos suite owners will have access to the 14,000-square-foot Bayside Sports and Entertainment Centre atop the three-storey garden podium.

This inviting space features an outdoor pool and whirlpool, running track, squash courts, billiards, card room, Hollywood-style screening room, craft room, library, party room with private dining room, as well as a cardio theatre.

Suites at California Condos range in size from 530 to over 2,200 square feet and include a balcony or terrace, nine- or 10-foot ceilings and a showcase gourmet kitchen with stone countertops and a stainless steel appliance package including a slide-in range, with most suites featuring a spectacular cooking island with suspended stainless steel hood fan. Preview prices start from just $198,900.

The stunning new Presentation Centre is also home to a 1957 Porsche replica, representing the kind of cool, carefree inspiration behind this condominium.

The Presentation Centre is located at 515 The Queensway.

more online

» For more information visit *californiacondosTO.ca* or call 416-251-8888.

The ins and outs

With so much going on in the real estate market, sometimes it's important to take a step back and update one's knowledge and understanding of what it is, isn't and could be.

To that end we will go over a few common real estate terms, a brief market update and new laws that will begin affecting all of us.

DEPOSIT

Under most circumstances the deposit is made by the purchaser within a business day of a deal being executed, to the listing brokerage's trust account. Normally the certified cheque is in the amount of $10,000, although it can be lower or higher. This deposit does indeed count towards your "down payment" with regards to your mortgage.

THE HUNT
AMIT PAUL
amitp@rogers.com

MULTIPLE OFFERS

Over the past few years a trend has emerged whereby Realtors will restrict offers from being presented until a certain date. Normally this date is about a week after showings begin, and the home is one that is expected to go for top dollar. What this does is create a bidding war on the day offers are being accepted. It may surprise some that such a practice is technically prohibited by legislation, but since it hasn't yet been rectified with a fine-toothed comb, the practice continues. Sellers love it and buyers detest it.

Don't look now but 2008 is half over. How's the market faring? Over the first half of June prices continued to rise from last year. The GTA average rose 4% from the same period last year to $398,542.

That's also 11% higher than the same period in 2006. Toronto, specifically, rose 3% to $439,469, and has risen 14% since 2006. The 905 region followed suit climbing to $371,686, also up 4% from last year and 10% from 2006. As discussed many times in this column, the reality behind our market is that while volume has declined, prices continue to show signs of a continuingly strong market. Along with a healthy market comes the need for a more secure market. Newly formed legislation means that you will soon be required to submit more personal information whether buying or selling, including but not limited to your date of birth and employment information. These new measures are being implemented to continue the fight against illegal money laundering and criminal transactions.

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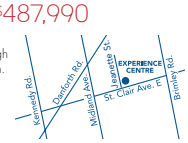

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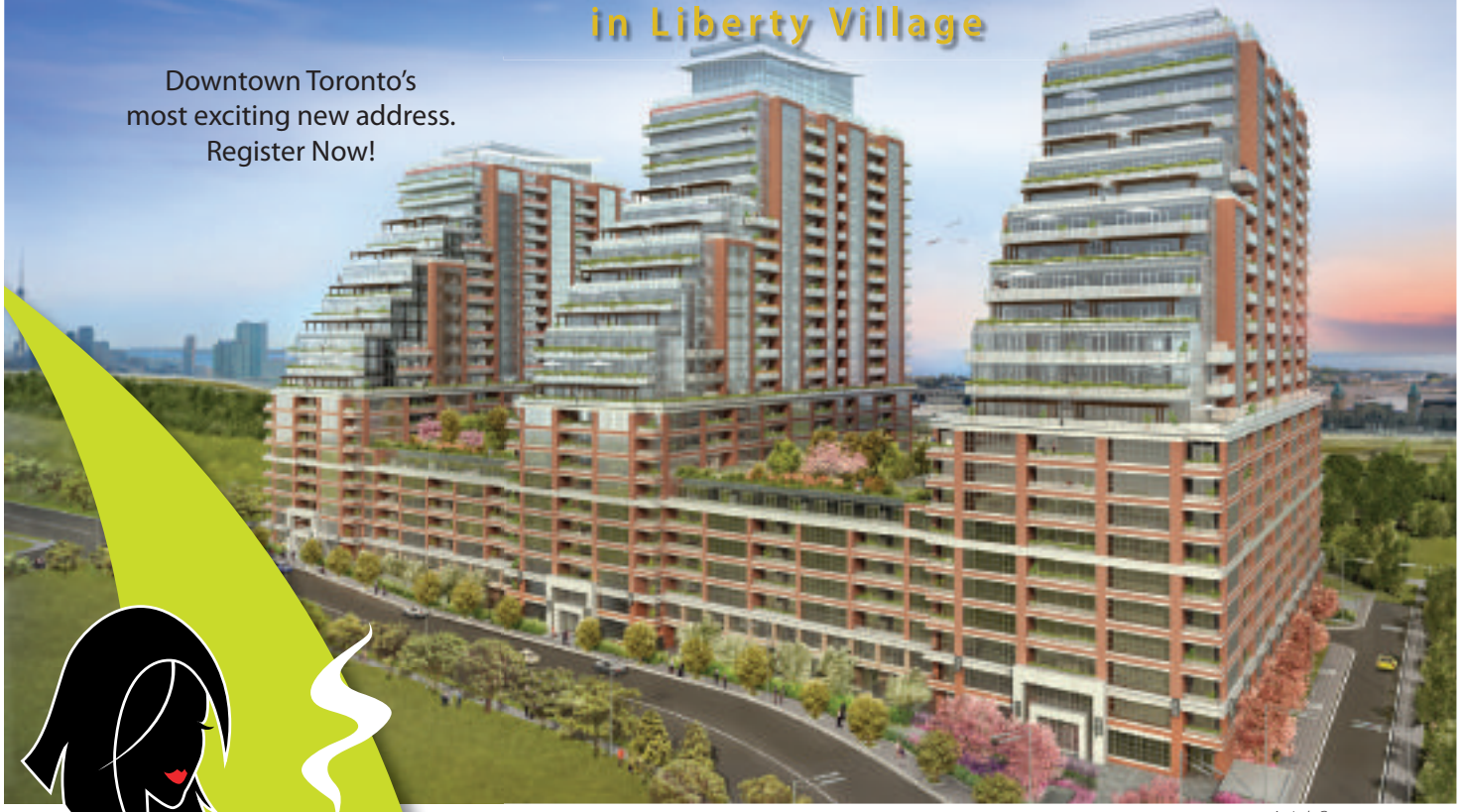

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food

To reduce charring the meat on the grill, remove skin from meat and trim off excess fat before seasoning.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Grill low and slow

Summer just isn't summer without ribs on the grill, and the secret to succulent ribs is time. These ribs require very little effort, just patience. Allow two hours from start to finish, fortunately with only an occasional check. Turn your barbecue into an outdoor oven and let it do the cooking. Buy the meatier back ribs rather than side ribs or spareribs. Rub with seasonings, cook low and slow and brush with a smoky sauce near end of cooking.

à la carte
BARB HOLLAND

Slow Cooked Smoky Back Ribs

Chipotles are both smoky and quite spicy, so adjust amount to your taste. Alternately brush ribs with your favourite smoky barbecue sauce. Serve with baked potatoes, corn and cold beer.

INGREDIENTS:
2 slabs of back ribs, about 3 lbs (1.5 kg) in total

Rib Rub:
1 tbsp (15 mL) each: Ground cumin and coriander
1-1/2 tsp (7 mL) each: Chili powder and brown sugar
1 tsp (5 mL) each: Salt, pepper and paprika
1/2 tsp (2 mL) cayenne

Sauce:
7-oz (198 g) can chipotles in adobe sauce
1/4 cup (50 mL) brown sugar

METHOD: Remove the thin membrane from undersides of ribs and trim off any excess fat. Rub evenly with rub mixture. If time permits, let stand 20 minutes.

Cook ribs over indirect heat — after preheating barbecue, turn one burner off and reduce heat on other burner(s) to low. Place ribs on unlit side, close lid and cook for 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 hours, turning over and rearranging occasionally. Place an oven thermometer in barbecue to check temperature is about 300 F (150 C). Ribs are done when you can "wiggle" the end of the rib bones and the meat is "relaxed."

Puree entire can of chipotles and adobe sauce in small food processor or blender. Measure out 1/4 cup (50 mL) and combine with brown sugar. Brush ribs with sauce mixture and cook another 10 to 15 minutes. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Rubbing meat with a flavourful blend of herbs and spices before cooking works like a dry marinade, providing great flavour and sealing in moisture.

Rib tips:

- Rain check — for an alternative cooking method, arrange ribs on a rack set in a shallow baking pan. Cook in 300 F (150 C) oven as above.
- Freeze remaining pureed chipotles in small amounts to use later in chili, for a mopping sauce to brush on grilled chicken or pork, or stirred into mayonnaise for a spicy, smoky dipping sauce.
- The Right Rib — Back ribs are from the blade and centre section of a pork loin and are meatier than side ribs (or spareribs). One rack weighs about 1-1/2 lbs (750 g). Plan on 3/4 to 1 lb (375 - 500 g) per person. Side ribs are cut from the belly or side and the ribs are longer and less meaty than back ribs. Plan on 1lb (500 g) per person.

Rub tips:

- Rubbing meat with a flavourful blend of herbs and spices before cooking works like a dry marinade, providing great flavour and sealing in moisture.
- Dry mixtures are a low fat way to add maximum flavour in minimal time and they work equally well on small or large pieces. While you can buy seasoning mixtures, it's easy to create your own blends and with much less salt, which tends to draw moisture out of meat. Make sure your herbs and spices are fresh for best flavour and feel free to be creative.
- As a guideline, use about 1 tbsp (15 mL) to season a pork chop, chicken leg or steak. Use about 2 to 3 tbsp (30 to 45 mL) to season a rack of ribs, whole chicken or a roast. For lean meats, such as skinless chicken and pork steaks, mist or lightly brush seasoned meat with vegetable oil before cooking.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

bbq like a pro

Grilling tips for best flavours

METHOD Barbecue grills are not noted for being non-stick, so here are a few tips to help prevent your food from becoming one with the grill.

» Each time you've finished barbecuing, burn off the remains. Let the gas grill run on high for 10 minutes (covered), then cool and scrape clean. This also prevents lingering flavours from going rancid and midnight raccoon raids.

» Before you start up the barbecue, lightly brush cold grates with vegetable oil or use an oiled paper towel.

» Make sure grill is sufficiently hot, allow at least 10 minutes to preheat a gas barbecue; and 45 minutes for a charcoal grill or when the coals are covered in grey ash. Cook initially at high or medium-high heat to sear both sides of meat, then reduce to medium or low. Close lid to hold in heat.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

berry good

Strawberries now fresh, in season

TIPS Ontario strawberries are available from early June to early August, depending on the area.

» Look for bright red berries with a sweet smell and no white or green spots.

» Large or small, all strawberries are equally sweet and juicy.

» Avoid berries packed in juice-stained containers. Remove any damaged berries before they spoil the rest.

» Refrigerate in a single layer with hulls intact.

FOODLAND ONTARIO

Strawberry Poppers perfect for Canada Day

For this Canada Day weekend, try these little red-and-white appetizers while waiting for those slow cooked smoky back ribs to finish.

Strawberry Poppers

Served with a glass of chilled champagne or white wine, these are the perfect start to a summer meal. Pop one into your mouth for a spicy, sweet surprise. Nutrition information per piece: 9 calories, trace protein, 0.5 g fat, 1 g carbohydrates.

INGREDIENTS:
24 medium-sized fresh local strawberries, hulled
50 ml (1/4 cup) light cream cheese, softened
15 ml (1 tbsp) finely chopped jalapeno pepper (approx)
5 ml (1 tsp) grated lime zest
2 ml (1/2 tsp) chili powder (approx)
50 ml (1/4 cup) finely minced fresh parsley or cilantro

METHOD: Wash strawberries and pat dry. Use a tiny spoon to hollow out berries. Set aside.

In small bowl, stir together cream cheese, jalapeno pepper, lime zest and chili powder. Taste and add more jalapeno and chili powder, if desired. Using a piping bag with large star tip, pipe cheese mixture into strawberries to fill centre. Dip cheese end of berry into parsley. Refrigerate for up to 1 hour before serving.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS

You'll get a spicy sweet surprise when you try these refreshing strawberry poppers.

Welcome to fudgy heaven

Canadian Trish Magwood has won the prestigious James Beard Award in the entertaining category for her recent book of recipes and entertaining strategies, Dish Entertains. The James Beard awards, considered the "Oscars" of the culinary world, were announced in early June during a three-day gala celebration in New York City.

Magwood is the entrepreneur and creative spirit behind the DISH concept, a cooking school, catering company, café, retail business and television show Party Dish. Harper Collins Canada offered Metro this chewy, delicious recipe that kids will love from the award-winning book Dish Entertains:

Dish Entertains by Trish Magwood is available at *Amazon.ca* with a current list price of $28.32 for the hardcover edition.

Mocha Brownies

There are two camps when it comes to brownies — fudge brownies and cake brownies. If you fall into the fudge camp, you have found heaven with this recipe. Makes 12 large or 24 mini brownies.

INGREDIENTS:
1 cup (250 mL) all-purpose flour
1 tbsp (15 mL) instant espresso powder
1/4 tsp (1 mL) salt
6 oz (175 g) bittersweet chocolate, chopped
2 oz (60 g) unsweetened chocolate, chopped
3/4 cup (175 mL) unsalted butter, cubed
1 1/2 cups (375 mL) sugar
2 1/2 tsp (12 mL) vanilla
4 large eggs
3/4 cup (175 mL) semi-sweet chocolate chips

METHOD: Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Butter a 13x9-inch (3 L) baking pan and line with parchment paper (or grease pan and dust with flour).

In a small bowl, combine flour, espresso powder and salt. Set aside.

In a medium heatproof bowl over a pot of barely simmering water, melt bittersweet chocolate, unsweetened chocolate and butter together, stirring occasionally. (Make sure no water touches the chocolate.) Remove from heat and add sugar and vanilla; stir with a wooden spoon or spatula until smooth. Stir in eggs, one at a time, until incorporated. Fold in flour mixture. Stir in chocolate chips.

Spread in prepared pan and bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until set but a few crumbs stick to tester when inserted. Let cool on a rack.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HARPER COLLINS CANADA

Serve these fudgy brownies with warm chocolate and dulce de leche dipping sauces, if you like.

Chocolate tips:

- "Like water for chocolate" — ever wonder what that phrase meant? When chocolate is being melted, any amount of water in the chocolate will make it seize. (Don't ask. You'll have to start over.) Chocolate doesn't like moisture, so don't keep it in the fridge — best to keep in a cool, dark, dry place.
- Once brownies have cooled, using a small round cookie cutter, cut into rounds and skewer onto popsicle sticks for brownie lollipops. Serve them with warm chocolate and dulce de leche dipping sauces, if you like.

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The old French wine house of Mommessin has added an innovative twist to wine in a can: A 'Cooldot' that changes colour when the wine is at the right temperature. Read about this wine and the tin phenomenon in Billy's Best Bottles on *metronews.ca*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Too hot, too cold, or just right

Temperatures are often overlooked

Even casual drinkers of wine know that white wines are served cooler than reds. But few realize the difference a few degrees can make, and not just with wine.

Here's what some beverage experts say about the optimum temperatures for a variety of drinks, and the most common mistakes people make.

beer

Most beer is served too cold, says Sang Yoon, a beer sommelier, chef and owner of Father's Office, a restaurant in Santa Monica, Calif.

But with most mainstream beers — the stuff produced by the major brand brewers — cold is fine. "Those don't have a huge aroma profile, so you can drink 'em really cold and you're not missing out on anything," Yoon says.

Aromatic beers that are brewed with more ingredients — pale ales for example — should be served around 4 C to 5 C (40 F to 42 F), while beers with big flavour, such as Belgian ales, don't release their aromas until they hit about 10 C (50 F).

wine

Wine often is served at the wrong temperature, says Natalie MacLean, the Ottawa-based editor of a wine newsletter and author of Red, White And Drunk All Over. "Too cold, and a wine's complexity and aromas are numbed; too hot, and it tastes alcoholic and flabby," she says.

The old advice about serving reds at "room temperature" comes from the days when the "room" in question was a drafty medieval castle, she says, not today's toasty, centrally heated homes.

Red wine should be served at about 15 C (60 F), though some light reds, such as Beaujolais, are better served cooler, she says. White wine should be chilled to about 13 C (55 F); the glass should feel cool but not ice-cold.

Dornenburg and Page drill down further, suggesting 4 C to 10 C (40 F to 50 F) for Champagne and other dry or sweet sparkling wines, 7 C to 13 C (45 F to 55 F) for dry whites and roses, and 13 C to 60 C (55 F to 60 F) for other white wines.

When in doubt, check the label: Many bottles indicate the optimal serving temperature.

coffee

The ideal temperature for coffee goes beyond taste, says Ric Rhinehart, executive director of the Specialty Coffee Association of America.

Most beer is served too cold, says Sang Yoon, a beer sommelier.

A brewing temperature between 90 C and 96 C (195 F and 205 F) is essential to achieve what he calls the appropriate "chemistry in your cup," or the right mix of soluble solids that make coffee look, smell and taste like coffee.

"When you get significantly higher than that, you tend to get some more of the bitter flavour extracted," he says. "When you get lower than that, you leave behind some of the more pleasant, interesting flavours and aromas."

The most common mistake is serving coffee that's not hot enough, he says. Frequently, the culprit is a drip coffeemaker that doesn't get the water hot enough and has too long of a brewing cycle.

tea

There are telltale signs when a cup of black tea is served at below-optimum temperature: The liquid will look clear and there will be a brown ring around the bottom of the cup.

"That's when you know you really made a mistake. If you taste it, it's going to taste like hot water," says Joe Simrany, president of the Tea Association of the USA.

"The problem is you're not extracting all the flavour that tea has to offer," he says.

Near boiling water is required to extract the most flavour from black tea. After three minutes of steeping, the tea should be about 85 C (185 F), he says. For white or green tea, cooler temperatures are required, around 74 C to 85 C (165 F to 185 F).

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Supermodel Iman, left, will be returning as host of Project Runway Canada. The new season makes its debut in January 2009. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Free speech at heart of doc

Actor Stein explores volatile world of Intelligent Design

By **RICK McGINNIS**
Metro Toronto

RICK MCGINNIS/METRO TORONTO

Writer, actor and TV personality Ben Stein jumps into the controversial world of Intelligent Design in his documentary Expelled.

Ben Stein admits that he's probably most famous for his deadpan cameo as a teacher in Ferris Bueller's Day Off, though at various times he has been a game show host, a speechwriter for Richard Nixon, and a columnist for Penthouse magazine. His career has had many different chapters, but the latest puts him in the middle of a controversy that most people probably thought had been laid to rest with the Snopes Monkey Trial.

As the narrator and protagonist of the documentary Expelled, Stein goes on a journey through the universities, museums and scientific institutions of American and Britain, trying to figure out just why everyone there seems to be in a rage about Intelligent Design, a theory that suggests that some sort of built-in logic or intervention might be the best way to explain away questions that still bedevil the study of evolution. Jobs have been lost, reputations damaged or even destroyed, and battle lines drawn across almost every scientific discipline.

Stein insists that he was sure that he'd get answers from the Darwinian camp that would make ID look like the joke it's supposed to be. "Three years ago or whenever we started this, I thought I was going to come to a completely different result than the one I came to," Stein says. "I thought I'd just go to (ID's proponents), and I'll say, look, this is an interesting idea but we now know that you guys are fruitcakes, and so we now know the answers. But we never found the answers, and frankly their answers started to sound more and more plausible."

Ultimately, Stein says he remains less interested in scientific theories than freedom of speech, and the way that any debate about ID has been crushed or dismissed outright.

"To tell you the truth, I don't have particularly strong feelings about ID. I have a strong feeling that Darwinism doesn't explain as much as people think it does, but I'm not worried about that one way or another, but I'm very worried about freedom of speech issues. I'm worried about them in the U.S. and, from what I've been told by close Canadian friends, I'm worried about them in Canada, too. I think Canada has some big free speech issues it's facing now."

The battle over ID is typified – not entirely accurately – as one between science and religion, though Stein maintains that the worship of science above morality and the suppression of dissent is at the heart of the worst atrocities of the last century, including the Holocaust. "My sister, who's a very smart woman, likes to say, 'Your basic human is not such a hot item.' And I think that's a very good understanding of what's gone on in the 20th century, and all the centuries prior to it, and also in this century. How you deal with that is a big, big problem, but telling people what they can and cannot say is not the way to deal with it."

music

Coldplay album debuts at No. 1

Martin

CHARTS Coldplay's new album is already living the life.

Viva La Vida will debut at No. 1 on The Billboard 200 album chart with over 720,000 copies sold in its first week, the second-best opening week of 2008, according to the trade magazine's website. The album follows 2005's X&Y, which also debuted at No. 1 on The Billboard 200.

music

Oasis announces new album title

DETAILS British rockers Oasis have revealed that their upcoming album will be called Dig Out Your Soul, BBC News reports. The album, recorded in London's famous Abbey Road studios, comes out in U.K. on Oct. 6, preceded by single The Shock of The Lightning. METRO NEWS SERVICES

KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

Kanye West, front, and Lil Wayne at BET Awards.

T-Pain rocks BET awards, West gets two nods

T-Pain transformed the BET Awards into a circus Tuesday with a multi-artist medley that showed the rapper and singer's wide-ranging influence on urban music, while best-selling rapper Lil Wayne and songstress Alicia Keys gave rousing performances of their own.

Not to be outdone, the ladies offered a showstopping performance of their own, led by double nominee Keys. Rocking a sleek bob and skintight jeans, Keys invited vintage girl groups SWV, En Vogue and TLC to join her onstage for a medley of their biggest hits.

Viewers Choice award winner Lil Wayne was set to deliver the night's most anticipated performance, and he didn't disappoint. West also won awards for best male hip-hop artist and best collaboration for his song with T-Pain, Good Life.

After tributes by Jill Scott and Maxwell, Lifetime Achievement Award winner Al Green delivered a smash performance of his own.

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Tricia Helfer (Battlestar Galactica), left, is joining Fox's upcoming drama pilot Inseparable. The show is a modern-day Jekyll and Hyde tale about a partially paralyzed forensic psychiatrist (Lloyd Owen) with a split personality. Helfer plays a psychiatrist who evaluates suspects for the police. EW.COM

Evil Dead marks 300th show

Production successful in merging theatre, liquor consumption

If George Reinblatt weren't so thirsty, he probably would never have written Evil Dead: The Musical, which is celebrating its 300th performance today.

Let Reinblatt, 31, the perpetual frat boy without a campus, tell the story himself.

"It was the summer of 2002," he began, "and I went to see my buddy Chris Bond, who was performing in The Rocky Horror Show at a bar somewhere in Toronto.

"I was fascinated by the idea of people being allowed to drink in a theatre. I mean, it combined two of my favourite activities."

So later that evening ("over more than a few brews," in Reinblatt's words) he and Bond decided to create a show of their own that – most importantly – would be presented in a venue that allowed the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

The next night, Reinblatt watched the 1981 movie The Evil Dead and called Bond, saying, "We have to do this!"

Next, he contacted the film's creator, Sam Raimi, by now an A-list Hollywood director thanks to films such as Spider-Man.

"Surprisingly enough, Raimi gave me the rights from the start. It was all legal, but very limited. Later on, when we started to expand, the film company entered the picture and they kept us on a very short leash until they knew it was good."

Together with fellow Queen's University buds Frank Cipolla and Melissa Morris, Reinblatt and Bond wrote the show over the next year and had it ready to open at the Tranzac Club, on Brunswick Ave. (which, happily, was fully licensed) on Aug. 14, 2003.

If that date rings a bell, it's because it was the night of the giant blackout, and only now, five years later, is Reinblatt willing to sheepishly admit that "I never even saw that performance. I was trapped all the way over on the other side of town." What happened in the Annex, however, was amazing.

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

George Reinblatt, one of the authors of Evil Dead: The Musical, poses with a headless zombie at the Diesel Playhouse.

The cast and the audience poured into the street, lit the show with headlights, played it all acoustic and kept the evening going.

"It was that night," Reinblatt chuckled, "that the Evil Dead buzz started."

The run at the Tranzac sold out quickly and another was planned for October, which also played to packed houses. Then Just For Laughs brought it to Montreal in the summer of 2004, and it opened in New York on Nov. 1, 2006, got generally upbeat reviews and ran until Feb. 17, 2007.

Next it came back, to the Diesel Playhouse, where it remains.

As for the future, Reinblatt says he has a few ideas, but admits, "I've kind of grown to realize that no matter what I do, people might say, 'It's not as good as Evil Dead.'"

And they might not serve drinks at the theatre, either.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Princely prize

Atwood takes Spanish award

MUCH PRAISE Canadian author Margaret Atwood has won Spain's Prince of Asturias prize for letters.

In a statement yesterday, the jury praised the 68-year-old Atwood for work that covers several genres "with sharpness and irony," adding that she "defends the dignity of women and denounces situations of social injustice."

Atwood has published more than 25 volumes of poetry, fiction and non-fiction and has won prestigious awards including Britain's Booker Prize for The Blind Assassin.

She is also known for The Edible Woman and The Handmaid's Tale.

Eight Prince of Asturias prizes worth about $80,000 apiece are awarded each year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Blake Lewis, right, may have come in second place on season 6 of American Idol, but he won't be seeing a second release on Arista Records. The label "will not be picking up Blake's option" for any future recorded projects, a rep said. EW.COM

Put a sock in it, Citytv says

Ed regularly beat out late-night U.S. competitors.

Canada's longest running weekly comedy scrapped

In another move that signals changes at Citytv, Ed and Red's Night Party is being cancelled as of Aug. 31, but according to the man behind the incorrigible sock puppet, Ed the Sock is far from dead.

"There's no ill will. Things change," said Steve Kerzner, Ed's voice and creator. "We just don't really fit, I guess, as presently constituted, with what they wanted to do with the channel."

Kerzner says he was told that Citytv's new corporate parent, Rogers, would like to attract more female viewers. He also says he's been feeling restless and wants to branch out and do more than just the late night show.

Since debuting on cable access in 1992, and moving to Citytv in 1994, the show has become Canada's longest running weekly comedy show and regularly beats American late-night competition in local ratings. Throughout the years, Ed the Sock was featured on MuchMusic in Fromage specials and as a correspondent, besides his own show, which started as Ed's Night Party.

Since Rogers took over Citytv last year, there have been a number of high-profile changes, including the departure of consumer advocate Peter Silverman and the decision not to bring back Speakers Corner.

"It was really kind of a mutual conclusion for Ed and City to move on," said James Haggerty, vice-president and general manager of Citytv Toronto.

"As we were devising our fall schedule, we both came to the conclusion that maybe it is time for Citytv to move on and explore other programs in that time slot."

Kerzner said he understands the need for Rogers to take control of their investment, although he admits there should be a fear of alienating old viewers.

Kerzner does completely own the Ed character and since news of his impending departure has spread, he's found himself surprised by other suitors, as well as overwhelming fan support for the character.

He says plans are in the works for a new series or movie featuring Ed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No socks allowed

»There are actually 10 Ed puppets. Steve Kerzner wants to put them in a museum. "We talked to the Bata Shoe Musuem, but they didn't think it was right for them. I don't get it. It's a shoe museum but not a sock museum."

Goldberg at helm

India.Arie heads to Broadway

BLACK GIRLS Grammy-winning singer India.Arie will make her Broadway debut in a revival of Ntozake Shange's "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf."

Veteran producer and actor Whoopi Goldberg is producing.

India.Arie will open in the play Sept. 8 at Circle in the Square. Preview performances begin Aug. 19.

The show is a revised and updated version of the play, which was a hit off-Broadway for the Public Theater in 1976 before it was transferred to Broadway for a run of more than 700 performances.

The new production will be directed by Shirley Jo Finney. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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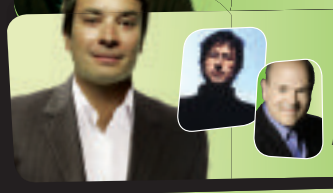

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Rushdie knighted

Queen Elizabeth conferred a knighthood on The Satanic Verses author Salman Rushdie yesterday, a year after the announcement of the knighthood provoked protests from the Muslim world.

Some Muslims accused Rushdie of blasphemy in the book and Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini pronounced a death sentence on him in 1989.

"I really have no regrets about any of my work," Rushdie told reporters after being asked about The Satanic Verses.

"This is, as I say, an honour not for any specific book but for a very long career in writing and I'm happy to see that recognized," he said.

Rushdie, 61, published his first novel, Grimus, in 1975.

Rushdie was forced to accept round-the-clock protection after The Satanic Verses, was published in 1988.

The Iranian government withdrew the death sentence in 1998 and Rushdie has gradually returned to public life.

"It's been a long time — my first novel was published 33 years ago but I think the thing you hope to do as a writer is leave behind a shelf of interesting books and it's great just to have that work recognized," Rushdie told reporters.

He added: "At this stage, you know, it's certainly not a day to talk about controversy, it's a day for myself and my family to celebrate this."

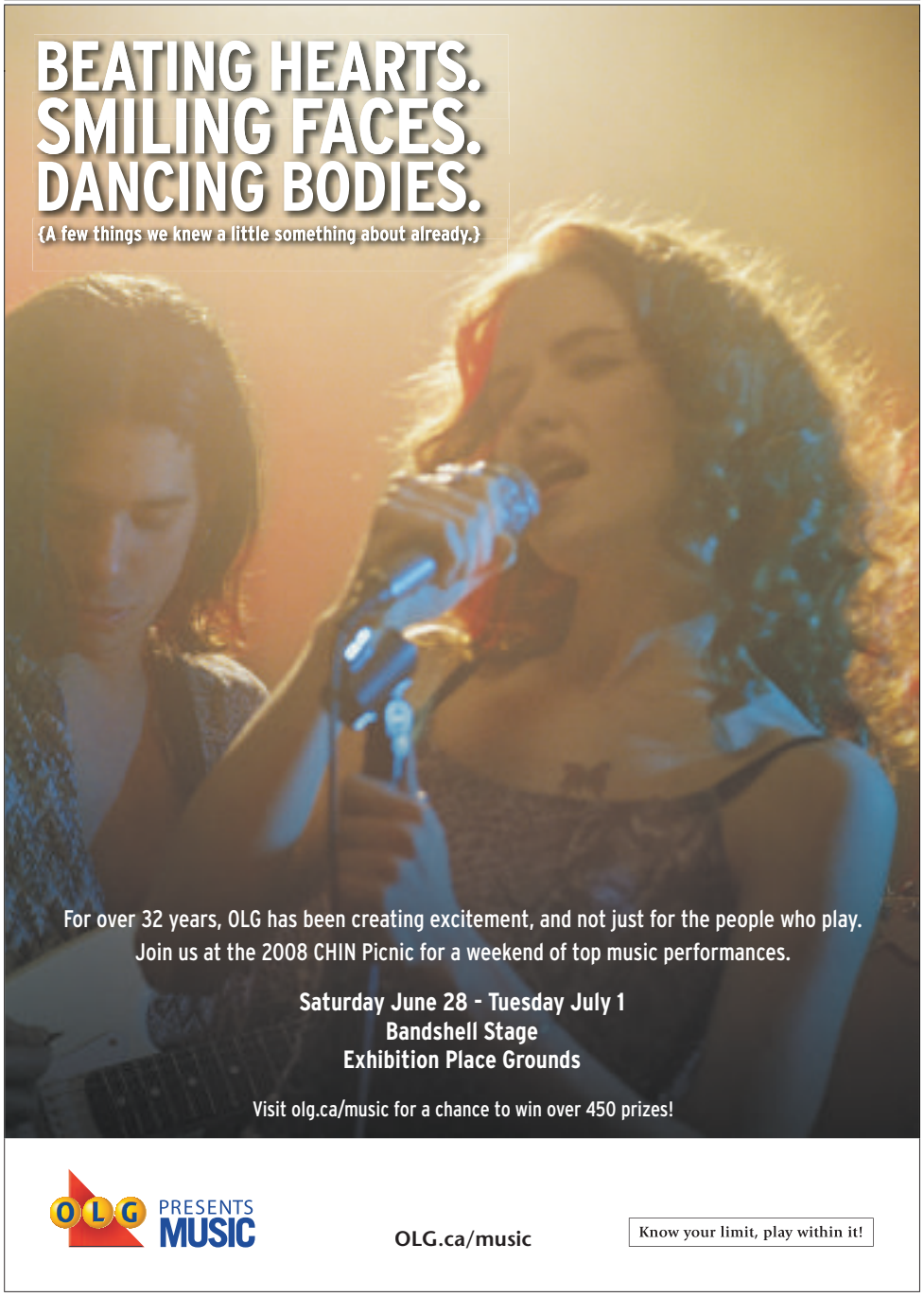
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Booker Prize

» Success came with Rushdie's second book, Midnight's Children, which won the prestigious Booker Prize in 1981.

JOHN STILLWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Author Salman Rushdie is seen after receiving his knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II yesterday.



Big Bird costume creator mourned

Kermit Love, the costume designer who helped puppeteer Jim Henson create Big Bird and other Sesame Street characters, has died. He was 91.

Love died from congestive heart failure on the weekend in Poughkeepsie, near his home in Stanfordville, Love's longtime partner, Christopher Lyall, said.

In addition to his work with Henson, Love was a designer for some of ballet's most prominent choreographers, including Twyla Tharp, Agnes de Mille, Jerome Robbins and George Balanchine.

Love also designed costumes and puppets for film and advertising, including the Snuggle bear from the fabric softener commercials.

Sesame Street, public television's groundbreaking effort to use TV to teach preschoolers, premiered in 1969. Henson designed the original sketches of Big Bird, and Love then built the eight-foot-two yellow-feathered costume.

It was Love's idea to add a few feathers designed to fall off, to create a more realistic feel.

"The most important thing about puppets is that they must project their imagination, and then the audience must open their eyes and imagine," he told The New York Times in 1981.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

more fame

» Love also helped design costumes and puppets for Mr. Snuffleupagus, Oscar the Grouch and Cookie Monster, among other characters. He even appeared on the show himself as Willy, the hotdog vendor.

Canadian producer dies

Vancouver movie producer Bill Vince has died of cancer at the age of 44.

Vince was nominated for an Academy Award in 2007 for producing Capote, a biography of American writer Truman Capote that saw Phillip Seymour Hoffman win an Oscar for best actor.

In a statement, Hoffman said Vince wore his heart on his sleeve, was attracted to passion and stood by Hoffman, something the actor says he'll never forget.

Vince and his brother Robert formed Infinity Features and produced such films as Snow Walker, Saved, Bullet Proof Heart and the Air Bud series.

Bill Vince was also active on the social front, helping implement and fund drug-addiction treatment programs for young people on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, and redeveloping an abandoned theatre in the neighbourhood.

He is survived by his wife, Cynthia Miles, and three children.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Man cleared in Fielder-Civil case

Beaten pub owner not guilty of taking bribe

A British court yesterday acquitted a former pub manager of taking a bribe to drop assault charges against Amy Winehouse's husband.

A jury deliberated for three hours before finding James King not guilty of trying to pervert the course of justice.

The singer's husband, Blake Fielder-Civil, has admitted beating up King in a barroom fight in 2006 and then offering him $400,000 to keep quiet about it.

King, who suffered a broken cheekbone, said he was intimidated into withdrawing the assault claim.

Three other men also pleaded guilty to involvement in the plot. They and Fielder-Civil all face jail terms when they are sentenced next month.

Amy Winehouse has become an international star since releasing the Grammy-winning album Back to Black in 2006.

But her music has been overshadowed by reports of drug use, her run-ins with the law and tempestuous relationship with Fielder-Civil.

Winehouse recently collaped and was taken to hospital where she was diagnosed with early-stage emphysema. Her lungs have reportedly been damaged by smoking crack and cigarettes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amy Winehouse's love behind bars

» Amy Winehouse, 24 and Blake Fielder-Civil, 26, were married in Miami in May 2007. He was arrested in November and has been in jail ever since.

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Gary Glitter, 64, is serving time for molesting two girls.

Shamed rocker vies for comeback

Once out of jail, Gary Glitter hopes to release album

Former British glam rocker Gary Glitter, who is serving a jail sentence in Vietnam for molesting two girls, plans to return to singing after he is released in August, state-run media reported.

Glitter said in an interview with the Cong An Nhan Dan (People's Public Security) newspaper that he would like to make another record.

"I have an incomplete album that I want to finish," the 64-year-old disgraced rocker was quoted as saying. "I have been thinking about the plan during my days in jail."

Glitter, whose real name is Paul Francis Gadd, was convicted in March 2006 of committing "obscene acts with children."

The incidents involved two Vietnamese girls aged 10 and 11 from the southern coastal city of Vung Tau.

Glitter is also considering moving to Singapore or Hong Kong once he is released, the newspaper said on its website.

"I am trying to contact my lawyer and friends to see where the best place to live is," it quoted him as saying.

Glitter is in good health although he has a small problem with his hearing, according to the newspaper, run by Vietnam's Public Security Ministry.

Le Thanh Kinh, Glitter's attorney, could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Earlier this year, Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper reported that Glitter did not want to return to Britain because he would be listed on the country's sex offenders' registry.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Zohan a hit in the Holy Land

Israeli's flattered by film despite Sandler stereotypes

In Zohan Dvir, Israelis have a Hollywood hero — no matter that the soldier-turned-hairstylist played by Adam Sandler represents some of their country's worst stereotypes.

You Don't Mess With The Zohan looks to be a big hit in the Holy Land.

Billboards bearing the leading man's split-legged, blowdryer-wielding image are plastered across city walls and numerous stories have been written and broadcast in the local media, which has called it the "most Israeli film in Hollywood."

ovation, laughter

» At last Wednesday's premiere in Tel Aviv, the packed crowd burst out in ovation and laughter at each sighting of an Israeli actor and at each over-the-top cliche of their behaviour.

The movie tries to bridge Jews and Arabs by making fun of them. But in Israel, where the movie opened Thursday, people are drawn in more because of its Israeli protagonist and the cadre of Israeli actors and musicians featured in the film.

The Zohan, as he's known, is Israel's most legendary commando. He can karate kick through walls, catch bullets with his teeth and outswim jet boats; he's equally skilled in the bedroom. But after awhile he tires of killing off terrorists and barbecuing nude with bikini-clad babes on the beach and longs for more meaning in his life.

Israelis didn't seem too slighted by the not-too-favourable portrayal of them.

"I wasn't insulted at all. It was funny. Exaggerated, but funny," said Guy Ben-Yaacov, 23. "Besides, I know a few guys like Zohan."

"I think it is almost a gesture toward Israel," said Ido Mosseri, who plays Zohan's pushy expat Israeli sidekick Oori. "I was a little worried because Israeli crowds are very critical, but I think they took it all in with love."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Spielberg looks to direct 39 Clues

DreamWorks acquires rights to upcoming series

A multimedia-multi-author narrative being planned by the U.S. publisher of the Harry Potter books has picked up a famous patron: Steven Spielberg.

DreamWorks Studios has acquired the film rights to The 39 Clues, a mystery series-online game that Scholastic will debut in September. Spielberg, director of Jaws, Schindler's List and the Indiana Jones films, says he's hoping to direct.

Spielberg

"The 39 Clues takes creative leaps to expand the story experience from the pages of the books to multiple stages of discovery and imagination," Spielberg said yesterday in a joint statement issued by DreamWorks and Scholastic Media.

« Together with Scholastic, we have the opportunity to develop this property that says 'film,' 'family,' 'fun' and 'franchise.'»

Steven Spielberg

"Together with Scholastic, we have the opportunity to develop this property that says 'film,' 'family,' 'fun' and 'franchise.'"

The 39 Clues, which also features a set of 355 collectible cards, is a planned 10-book series about a powerful, mysterious family that lives in upstate New York. The first installment, The Maze of Bones, was written by

Rick Riordan, author of the best-selling The Lightning Thief. Jude Watson and Gordon Korman are among those who will write future volumes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drunk man charged for harrassing Cher

A Nashville man has been charged with disorderly conduct and public intoxication after he repeatedly harassed Cher at the famed honky-tonk Tootsies Orchid Lounge.

arrest me

» Police say Cher declined to prosecute but the man asked to be arrested.

Police say 36-year-old Calvin Hutton Houghland tried to make contact with Cher yesterday morning and was asked to leave the club. He complied, police said, but returned a short time later and grabbed Cher by the waist

Houghland was escorted from the bar, but returned again. When security blocked him, Houghland called police to say he'd been assaulted.

Houghland failed a self-requested field sobriety test. His bond was set at $3,000.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Contest closes July 14, 2008. Must be Canadian residents, 13 years & older and a Facebook member. Go to Rogers Show Off Your Summer Facebook page for full rules or to vote for a photo mosaic & enter. Limit of 1 vote per photo mosaic per Facebook account day. One trip for 2 to the Pemberton Festival in BC valued at $7,500 based on a Nfld. departure. Correct answer to mathematical skill-testing question required. No purchase necessary. **TM** Trademarks of Rogers Communications Inc., used under license or of Rogers Wireless. All other brand names are trademarks of their respective owners. © 2008 Rogers Wireless.

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Photo flap over Cruise film

Allegedly altered PR pics not quite what they seem

What looked at first like another PR blow to Valkyrie, the twice-delayed Tom Cruise film based on the true story of a German officer who plotted to assassinate Hitler, turned out to be a case of mistaken photo identity.

A report posted on Slate.com last week suggested that United Artists had doctored a portrait of Claus von Stauffenberg to make it more closely resemble the Top Gun actor. One problem: The two images scrutinized in the story, posted June 17 under the heading "Tom Cruise Mystery: The case of the doctored publicity photo," didn't come from the same source.

SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

Extras wearing WWII-era German military uniforms drive a motorcycle and sidecar near the film set of Valkyrie.

David Plotz, the editor of Slate, said after the web magazine was contacted by The Associated Press that the conclusion of the article was wrong, and a correction was planned.

"We did not do the photo research that we should have done," Plotz said Tuesday.

United Artists released its side-by-side publicity portraits last year to draw attention to the resemblance between the real von Stauffenberg and Cruise. In the black-and-white images, Cruise and von Stauffenberg are each in a similar profile pose, wearing similarly blank expressions.

Slate's story, by contributor Kim Masters, compares the von Stauffenberg photo supplied by United Artists to an image from the photo archive of The Associated Press.

The posting includes commentary from two Slate designers and an overlay, created by a third designer, with the AP photo — lighter and bearing less resemblance to Cruise — atop the darker, more heavily contrasted image released by United Artists.

The report concludes that it "Looks like someone tweaked the photo. Finding out who may be mission: impossible."

The AP determined that its archived photo of von Stauffenberg is not the same image released by United Artists. That photo can be found, among other places, in a Getty Images database.

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Marley & Me author working on prequel

Film of bestselling memoir slated for December release

Marley & Me author John Grogan is working on a prequel to the million-selling memoir about his dog.

The Longest Trip Home will be released in October by William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollins, the publisher said in a statement Tuesday.

"It is the powerful, often hilarious story of a son in the making, and of growing up in a loving, but comically old-school Catholic family," said the statement issued by Morrow.

> « *Even before Marley & Me was published, I knew this was the story I wanted to tell next. The Longest Trip Home is a story very close to my heart.* »
>
> *Author John Grogan*

"From his trouble-making childhood to his courtship of a fiery blonde named Jenny, Grogan writes about how he came to terms with who he is and what he believes."

"Even before Marley & Me was published, I knew this was the story I wanted to tell next," Grogan, 51, said in a statement. "The Longest Trip Home is a story very close to my heart."

A film version of Marley & Me, starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston, is slated for release in December. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Photocall **Africa Rising**

GARETH CATTERMOLE/GETTY IMAGES

Naomi Campbell and Nduka Obaigbena attend a photocall to promote Thisday's 3rd Africa Rising at The Royal Albert Hall yesterday in London. Africa Rising is an all-star music and fashion festival campaigning for Africa.

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PRIDEweek

The Black Queer Resistance Community Forum takes place tonight at Women's Health in Women's Hands Community Centre (2 Carlton St., ste. 500). For more, call 416-263-4884.

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Vigil of hope, optimism

Annual event held to commemorate those lost to AIDS

By **VERONICA BOODHAN**
for Metro Toronto

COURTESY OF THE 519 COMMUNITY CENTRE

GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

The 24th annual AIDS candlelight vigil takes place tonight in Cawthra Square Park.

Among this week's Pride events is the 24th annual AIDS candlelight vigil, being held tonight to remember and celebrate the lives lost to the disease.

"The people of Toronto came up with the idea," said Helen Rykens, AIDS Vigil Committee member. "It's more than just a place for grief. People can come together to express their emotions and spread hope for a cure."

The hour-long ceremony is taking place at the AIDS Memorial in Cawthra Square Park, behind The 519 Church Street Community Centre.

The memorial displays 2,705 names — 33 of which were added this year — of those lost to AIDS.

"It's a touchstone — a physical reminder of loss," said Jocelyn Watchorn, AIDS Vigil Committee volunteer.

The 33 names were submitted by family and loved ones. The candlelight vigil will include a reciting of the names followed by a moment of silence.

"The candles symbolize loss and grief, but also hope and optimism. The spreading of light brings the disease out of the stigma and darkness," said Watchorn.

There will be an additional 15 candles lit during the ceremony to represent different Toronto communities affected by AIDS.

This year's focus for the vigil is "Youth," emphasizing young people who are living with and affected by AIDS.

But, the vigil is not only for one community, according to Watchorn.

"Attending the event and seeing it's not just an event for the gay [community], every walk of life is represented. Loss is a universal phenomenon and HIV is universal," she says.

> « *The spreading of light brings the disease out of the stigma and darkness.* »
>
> *Jocelyn Watchorn, volunteer*

To represent Toronto's diverse communities, the committee selects different musical and spoken word performers. This year includes performances by Splash, from the Etobicoke School of the Arts, The Mayfield Music Theatre Ensemble and Gays Lesbians of African Descent.

The vigil is being hosted by Lisungu Chieza and Barry Freedman, both activists for HIV and AIDS.

To help raise money for The 519 Centre's free events, "Starry Night," a beer garden fundraiser, is being held tomorrow at 8 p.m.

The fundraiser, also being held in Cawthra Square Park, will feature celebrity bartenders including 2008 Pride Parade Grand Marshal Enza "Supermodel" Anderson, Adamo Ruggiero from Degrassi: The Next Generation and many more, with all bar proceeds going to the 519.

"It's for people to get together before the craziness of Pride weekend," said Eric Berndt, Manager, Resource Development and Communications at The 519 Centre.

» The annual AIDS candlelight vigil takes place tonight from 9-10 p.m. behind The 519 Community Centre. For more, go to *www.the519.org* or call 416-392-6874.

» my pride

by enza supermodel
enza.supermodel@metronews.ca

NAME: trey anthony
AGE: 30-something
OCCUPATION: Comedian, actress, playwright

CLAIM TO FAME: 'da Kink In My Hair theatrical play and television show.

A COMING OUT MOMENT: My coming out to my West Indian Jamaican family didn't go too well ... and I was estranged from my family for nearly two years. However, during this estrangement period, I wrote 'da Kink in order to deal with the crap happening in my family. So in some ways, my "coming out" led to my biggest career success! So I'm very thankful that I took the chance to be honest with myself and my family because there wouldn't be any Kink in my hair!

Photo by Enza Supermodel

FAVOURITE GAY ICON: Audre Lorde. We share the same birthday, Feb. 18, so I feel a sense of kinship with her.

A TORONTO PRIDE EXPERIENCE: My first Pride! I was blown away! I had never seen so many lesbians of colour and I think they just come out of the woodwork during Pride!

MOST LIKELY PLACE TO BE SPOTTED DURING PRIDE: On a great patio on Church, people-watching and avoiding bumping into various exes.

WORDS OF WISDOM: Be truthful. Be proud. Be kind. Be forgiving of yourself and others.

» come out

by enza supermodel
enza.supermodel@metronews.ca

COURTESY OF ISABELLA LONDON

COURTESY OF ISABELLA LONDON

Madonna impersonator Isabella London, seen here as two different incarnations of the pop star, will host Madonnarama: The Pride Edition at Fly Nightclub tonight.

Pride Week's official weekend starts today with four days of non-stop coming-out events.

First up is **MADONNARAMA: THE PRIDE EDITION**, which has Madonna fans getting in vogue with music by Madge herself. Try to calm your excitement if you see her there, as Madonna impersonator **Isabella London** hosts this all-night material girl fest. Drag queens will be filling the night with song and dance.
» **THE DETAILS:** Fly Nightclub, 8 Gloucester St., *www.flynightclub.com*, 416-410-5426, tonight at 10.

If the village is too far to travel, then the Drake Hotel will help curb your dance fever with **TEMPTATIONS THURSDAYS**. DJs Anthony and James heat things up in the lounge with classic soul standards and rare grooves.
» **THE DETAILS:** Drake Hotel, 1150 Queen St. W., *www.thedrakehotel.ca*, 416-531-5042, tonight at 8.

Willats

Don't keep this "Lady" waiting. **LADY IN WAITING** premieres in The Salon at St. Andrews United Church. Actor **Charles Hayter** performs this gender-bending, one-man stage comedy about a doctor by day who turns into a drag queen by night. If you miss tonight, don't worry, it runs until Saturday.
» **THE DETAILS:** The Salon, St. Andrews United Church, 54 Hayden St., 647-346-6110. Tonight at 8.

If you're itching to sing during Pride Week, then **QUEERAOKE**, at the Gladstone Melody Bar, has your fix. This all-queer karaoke night is open to all tonight at 10. While Idol wannabes are singing their hearts out, **LIBIDO** gets rocking next door in the Ballroom. This **DYKE MARCH EVENT** brings together some of the steamiest Sapphic talents from house music to old school to hot electro (tonight at 9). But before Queeraoke and Libido, it's cabaret punk with **the Tomboyfriend** and **the Histrionics** (at 7 p.m.).

"Libido is the Dyke March kickoff and fundraiser where queer women, trans-folk and their allies can hear some sexy and cutting edge music," says **Anna Willats**, Dyke March Honoured Dyke.
» **THE DETAILS:** The Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St. W, *www.gladstonehotel.com*, 416-531-4635.

METRO WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE ENZA ON BECOMING THIS YEAR'S PRIDE GRAND MARSHAL

Who better to lead the parade than someone who has made a career out of challenging boundaries?

Along with the honour, this year marks the 10th anniversary of Enza "Supermodel" Anderson introducing herself into the political arena, when she publicly kissed former Mayor Mel Lastman shortly after the city was amalgamated in 1998.

"I was the first drag queen in Toronto to kiss a major politician," she says. "It was my introduction to politics and it's come full circle."

Since then, her civic career boasts a run for mayor in 2000 that garnered 13,585 votes from a $300 campaign budget and an attempt to helm the ultra-right-wing Canadian Alliance (now the federal Conservative Party), much to the roiling of her political adversaries. She's not done either, saying she plans to run for city council in 2010.

"I want to change the atmosphere of City Hall, that whole feeling that it's us against them," she says. "I want to say, 'Look, you talk about the city being diverse, then why don't we prove that? Let's bring in the first trans city councillor.'"

For Anderson, the mandate has always remained the same: To fight for a city and a world that welcomes all people, regardless of colour, creed or orientation. But based on her day-to-day experiences — encountering homophobia on the job being common, she notes — there's still a lot to do.

"Gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transpeople have contributed a lot to the world," she says. "It's sad to hear homophobic comments. Oddly enough, when I go out to do my columns, I sometimes get these hateful remarks. There's still a lot of work to do in the future, and people shouldn't let their guard down. We have to keep working until we never have to talk about this anymore."

Today thru Monday, check out Enza Supermodel and our exclusive Pride week coverage. Only in Metro. Do it daily!

CHEER ON METRO'S ENZA – 2008 PRIDE GRAND MARSHAL – AT SUNDAY'S PRIDE PARADE!

Obsessed with 'train wrecks'

Academics study society's interest with troubled stars

Topics included "Britney's Tears: the Abject Female Celebrity in Postemotional Society" and "Hooker, Victim and/or Doormat: Lindsay Lohan and the Culture of Celebrity Notoriety."

European and American academics met yesterday to examine society's fascination with "train-wreck" female celebrities and why the public and the media seem to get a kick out of Britney's meltdown, Lindsay's drink and drug arrests and Amy Winehouse's rehab struggles.

Diane Negra, one of the organizers, said participants wanted to study why we take "pleasure in seeing women brought low."

"The massive coverage these women draw is only a little bit about themselves," said Negra, a professor of film and television at the host university in Norwich, 185 kilometres northeast of London. "These women operate as lightning rods for a lot of other concerns."

There's nothing new in society's fascination with celebrities. But the Internet and the spread of "tabloid" culture into the mainstream have created a whirlwind in which rumour, claim and rebuttal swirl and feed off one another.

A Google News search for troubled soul diva Winehouse yesterday produced almost 10,000 stories. In British newspapers, the story of the singer's erratic public appearances, struggle with drugs and health worries is played out almost daily.

There are plenty of male celebrities, from Pete Doherty to Robert Downey Jr., whose personal and legal difficulties also make headlines.

But Negra claimed the coverage of women is more judgmental, casting wayward female celebrities as "cautionary tales." She said coverage of female celebs is less likely to celebrate a troubled star's triumphant comeback, the way Downey has been lauded for "Iron Man," or Owen Wilson has been shown returning to work after a reported suicide attempt.

"We seem to have a lot more fixed ideas about what women's lives should be like than we do of men," she said.

"When we use female celebrities this way, we see them failing and struggling, they serve as proof that for women the work-life balance is impossible. Can you have it all? The answer these stories give again and again is 'absolutely not.'"

Unsurprisingly, celebrity journalists disagree. Gordon Smart, who edits the Sun newspaper's celebrity pages, said the preponderance of troubled female stars in the news was a coincidence.

"I just think at the moment there just happens to be cluster of female celebrities that are going through difficult times," Smart told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

Negra suggested the negative tone of much coverage reflects public concern about the growing number of celebrities with no obvious talent — people like Paris Hilton or the stars of reality-TV shows, who are famous simply for being famous. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES

Academics met to discuss society's interest with "train-wreck" female celebrities like Lindsay Lohan.

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movies

X-Files boss quietly works on new film

SECRET X-Files creator Chris Carter has been quietly directing the dark drama Fencewalker in the Los Angeles area, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Although his second X-Files feature doesn't even release until next month, THR reports that the director is underway on this next project, which reportedly stars Natalie Dormer (The Tudors), David Cassidy's daughter, Katie Cassidy (Supernatural) and rapper-actor Xzibit.

EW.COM

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primetime 6/26/08	265	353	2	TVO	Escape: Because Accident		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		P.O.W.		Masterworks (N)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Last Comic Standing (N)				Swingtown (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Who Do-Think	jPod (DVS)		Left Coast (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Friends	Hollywood	Ugly Betty (HDTV)		Supernatural (HDTV)		Hopkins (N)		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	eTalk	Jeopardy! (N)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		So You Think You Can Dance		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		News (N)
	218	345	11	CH	The Insider (N)	E! News	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Pussycat Dolls: True Story		Fear Itself (PA) (N)		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama	Visages	Plus que des jeux		Le Feu follet ★★ (1963, Drame) Maurice Ronet, Lena Skeria.				Volt
	-	-	14	-	Law & Order: SVU		News (N)		News (N)		King	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	The Wizard ★ (1989, Comedy) Fred Savage.				To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	How I Met	Engagement	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Swingtown (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Last Comic Standing (N)				Fear Itself (PA) (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ugly Betty (HDTV)		Grey's Anatomy		Hopkins (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Wheel-Fortune	Degrassi: Next	Private Practice (N)		Grey's Anatomy		Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		So You Think You Can Dance		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Goodnight Swt.	Windsors-Royal		Canada's War in Colour		The History Project		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Lara" (HDTV)		Supernatural (HDTV)		CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil		News (N)	Jeopardy!	Frasier	Frasier	Cheers
	298	653	332	TLA	Reba	Reba	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville
news	502	390	26	NW	News (N)	Our World	The Hour Ryan Phillippe.		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things (N)		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow & Company		Fast Money		Asia Squawk Box		Untold Wealth: Super Rich		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball Cincinnati Reds at Toronto Blue Jays. From Rogers Centre in Toronto.						Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	CFL Football Montreal Alouettes at Hamilton Tiger-Cats. (HDTV) (Live)						CFL Football BC Lions at Calgary Stampeders.		
	411	457	58	OLN	Exploration	Videos	Everest: Man	Jet Set	Mark Williams' Big Bangs		Don't Forget Your Passport		Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks	Pass Time	Monster Jam (N)		Pinks -- All Out		Low Life	Low Life	Pinks
family	551	542	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hunt	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Scooby Doo	Scooby-Doo	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow		
	556	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Wasted	Save Us-House	House
	570	580	29	MM	Instant Star	Born to Be	Muchmusic Countdown			Video on Trial	Instant Star	MuchTopTens Top 10.	
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The First 48 "Memphis"		The First 48 (HDTV)		Crime 360 (HDTV)		Back Hood
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Il Morso del Serpente (Italian).				The Sopranos (SS)		Raymond
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Back In	Cher: The Farewell Tour		Popaganda		Celebracadabra		Listed
	575	583	38	CMT	(6) CMT's Ultimate		Beyond Chance		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Roseanne	Dedicated (N)
	616	521	39	SHO	ReGenesis "The End"		Intelligence (DVS)		G-Spot	Exes & Ohs	Secret Diary	Secret Diary	House
	620	523	40	BVO	From the Spirit	In the Mind ...	Stones and the Ocean		An Ideal Husband ★★★ (1999, Romance-Comedy)				Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Women on Top	Til Debt-Part	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Last 10	Bulging Brides	Biggest Loser Australia		Rich Poor
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Terminal Leave"		War Planes "Jet"		War Planes F-22 Raptor.		NCIS "Terminal Leave"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Rick Mercer	The Simpsons	South Park	Just for Laughs		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Buy Me	Holmes on Homes (N)		Disaster DIY	The Big Flip	Handyman Superstar		Handyman
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	The Perfect Storm ★★★ (2000, Suspense) George Clooney.					Frasier	Seinfeld
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	Black Carpet	Hip Hop vs. America II		Baby Boy ★★★ (2001, Drama) Tyrese Gibson, Omar Gooding.				
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Voyager		The Lost Room "The Key and the Clock" (Part 1 of 3)				Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	MTV Screen	Cribs	4REAL	Next	The Real World		True Life		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Inside Hollywood (DVS)		ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	Boy Grill	Licence to Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Secret Life of	Ace of Cakes
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		May-December	Keeping Up	The Innocents ★★★★ (1961, Horror) Deborah Kerr.				Emily-Moon
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	eTalk	Staying Young in Hollywood		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		eTalk
	553	546	65	TRE	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Nght Grdn	Wiggle-Learn	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	Les Gags	Cendrillon aux grands pieds (1960, Comédie)			Héros "Contre-coup" (HDTV)		TVA 22 heures	Juste pour rire	Sucré-salé
	126	730	102	RDI	RDI en direct	400 fois Qué	Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT	The West Wing		Hard to Forget (1998, Mystery) Polly Shannon.				Traders		The West Wing
	300	601	301	M1	(7:15) A Teacher's Crime (2008, Drama) Ashley Jones.				The Hunting Party ★★ (2007, Drama)			(10:45) The Fountain	
	305	612	306	PIX	(5:30) Giant ★★★★ (1956, Drama) Elizabeth Taylor.				The Godfather, Part III ★★★ (1990, Crime Drama) Al Pacino, Diane Keaton.				

critics'corner

The Lost Room

Norman Bates' place ain't got nothin' on the Sunshine Motel, especially Room 10. This three-part miniseries stars Julianna Margulies as a woman who teams up with a detective (Peter Krause) to investigate after her brother is killed for his motel room key. The room turns out to be full of objects with scary supernatural powers, objects that certain people will stop at nothing to get their hands on. Elle Fanning — Dakota's little sis — also stars. 9 PM on SPC

CFL Football

The 2008 CFL season gets under way tonight at Hamilton's Ivor Wynne Stadium, where Anthony Calvillo and the Montreal Alouettes hope to erase the memories of a disappointing 2007 campaign against Casey Printers and the league doormat Tiger-Cats. Part of that, undoubtedly, will be getting a full season from veteran quarterback Calvillo, who took a leave of absence late last season to care for his ailing wife. 7 PM on TSN

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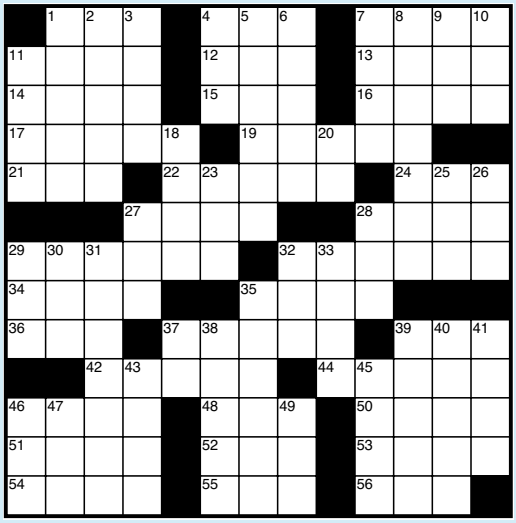
Do it daily.



down »

1 Market worth
2 Huffy
3 Basilica part
4 Emma in "The Avengers"
5 Panted
6 Cornball
7 Hoarfrost
8 Embarrasses
9 747 or DC-10
10 Logging tool
11 Diplomat's forte
18 Hearty laugh
20 Sunflower st.
23 Friend, slangily
25 Emmet
26 Badges and such
27 "Westworld" name
28 Cone bearer
29 Big bird
30 After taxes
31 Was much taller
32 Beat the field
33 Santa —, Calif.
35 Panda fodder
37 Yes, to Fritz
38 Thomas Gray opus
39 Aluminum company
40 Bummer of a car
41 Watched
43 Rochester's Jane
45 Falls behind
46 One of the Seven Dwarfs
47 Festive night
49 Prohibition

across »

1 Through
4 Yuck!
7 Prince of India
11 Rubberized canvas
12 — Zedong
13 Mountain goat
14 Melodramatic cry
15 Inquire
16 Hubby
17 Shrewder
19 Lap dogs
21 Souvenir buy
22 Does as told
24 "Bali —"
27 Patio view
28 Shift or cope
29 Big motorcycle race
32 Sleeve parts
34 Whimper
35 Rude person
36 Tony-winner — Hagen
37 Denims
39 Malt brew
42 Kingdom
44 Back street
46 Stand up to
48 Diminish
50 Zenith
51 Not sunnyside up
52 — — few rounds
53 Not bad
54 Yield territory
55 Not hither
56 Kyoto honorific

previous answer

T	O	M	■	M	A	I	D	■	P	A	D	S
E	R	A	■	A	L	A	I	■	H	I	R	E
X	E	R	O	X	I	N	G	■	O	D	I	N
■	■	■	G	I	G	■	■	I	N	A	P	T
F	E	A	R	■	N	I	F	T	Y	■	■	■
I	D	L	E	■	■	L	I	L	■	J	U	S
L	I	D	■	S	P	I	E	L	■	A	S	P
E	T	A	■	L	O	A	■	■	A	V	E	R
■	■	■	H	O	W	D	Y	■	N	A	R	Y
G	A	M	U	T	■	■	A	R	T	■	■	■
U	R	A	L	■	Z	E	R	O	E	D	I	N
S	I	L	K	■	A	N	N	O	■	A	C	E
T	A	T	S	■	P	S	S	T	■	S	H	E

HOROSCOPE

ARIES | March 21-April 20
Mechanical problems cause a commotion. Spread the news about a relative's intentions. A meeting will create changes in policy.

TAURUS | April 21-May 21
Friendly behaviour causes wistful thoughts to arise. A co-worker's drama is comical. A man will show compassion.

GEMINI | May 22-June 21
Dreams of the future start to take shape. Work that you've been doing will begin to pay off. Help a parent with a dilemma.

CANCER | June 22-July 22
Someone wants to discuss "important matters". Lost documents will delay a deal. A painful romance is about to end.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 23
A peculiar tale won't be very satisfying. Be truthful if you're feeling forlorn. Don't pretend that all is well if it isn't.

VIRGO | Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Be careful with weird people. Someone picks up the pieces of a broken heart. Give up on unrealistic concepts of happiness.

LIBRA | Sep. 23-Oct. 23
You'll be sure of someone's secret feelings. Keeping a stiff upper lip puts your nerves on edge. A hermit looks to you for kindness.

SCORPIO | Oct. 24- Nov. 22
Somebody shows the depth of their perception. A mother issues an invitation. A crisis situation comes to a head.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 23- Dec. 21
Satisfaction comes in strange packages. The solution to a problem is in your room. A red-haired person won't bother to respond.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 20
You'll cope well with a minor setback. Other people's property causes nightmares. There's no point repeating yourself.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 21-Feb. 18
An obsession continues to distract you. A seducer works well with a romantic. Remain firm in the face of silly revelations.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Be playful with a friendly lover. Your finances will involve displeased strangers. An appointment is missed due to forgetfulness.

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	4	7	5		9			3
		1	6	4	3			
	5		2					
		2				9	7	6
1	3	6				8		
					8		5	
			4	3	2	7		
8			9		7	4	2	

instructions »

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, and each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

solve time »

Under 13 minutes	Genius
13-17 minutes	Scholar
17-21	Smart
21-25	Pretty good
More than 25	Keep practising

previous answer

8	4	6	2	1	3	5	7	9
3	5	9	8	7	6	2	1	4
7	2	1	9	5	4	8	6	3
2	6	3	5	4	1	9	8	7
5	9	8	7	6	2	3	4	1
1	7	4	3	8	9	6	2	5
9	3	7	4	2	8	1	5	6
4	1	2	6	3	5	7	9	8
6	8	5	1	9	7	4	3	2

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Afternoon	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
40%		80%	80%	40%
Thunder-showers. 28°	Partly cloudy. 18°	Showers. 26°/17°	Showers. 28°/16°	Showers. 23°/16°

Temperature
Normals
High: 26.7°
Low: 13.8°

Records
High: 36.1°/1949
Low: 5.6°/1965

Sunrise: 5:38 a.m.
Sunset: 9:04 p.m.
Moonrise: 12:44 a.m.
Moonset: 1:47 p.m.

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Celebrity Buzz

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Dark Knight snub 'absurd'

Family affair: Michelle Williams has dismissed reports she is snubbing the premiere of Batman Begins sequel The Dark Knight because of a bust-up with her late boyfriend Heath Ledger's parents, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports.

Reports suggest Williams wouldn't attend the screening of Ledger's last complete film, because she is angry with Ledger's father Kim's handling of the actor's estate.

But her representative Mara Buxbaum insists the claim is "absurd."

She tells *People.com*, "The presumption that Michelle ever intended to attend The Dark Knight premiere is unfounded, but to say she is 'boycotting' due to a rift with Heath's family is absurd.

"It is time to allow this family to go about their lives without this continued scrutiny and speculation."

Ledger's parents and sister will jet to New York from their home in Australia to attend the premiere on July 14 — six months after Ledger took a fatal overdose of prescription drugs at his Manhattan home.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

goodbye

No more partying, Osbourne says

PEOPLE Don't expect to see photos of Kelly Osbourne out and about, *Ananova.com* reports. The singer and TV star says her partying days are behind her. Chatting to Closer magazine, Kelly said: "The social scene has finished for me. I'm not falling out of clubs every night like lots of celebs my age — I wouldn't be a functional human being if I was. I was going out a lot, I was drinking a lot and it wasn't attractive."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bateman bans the booze

PEOPLE Juno star Jason Bateman has gone teetotal after his wife persuaded him to give up alcohol, *imdb.com* reports. The 39-year-old star hasn't had a drink in four years and puts his newfound clean living down to a desire to grow up and leave his adolescence behind.

Bateman also credits his wife with helping him give up booze — because she never liked him drinking.

He says, "I've spent all my fun chips and now I've parked my drinking boots in the closet. I haven't had a drink in four years."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity brief

PEOPLE Actor Rhys Ifans is reportedly returning to his hometown roots to get over his former fiancee Sienna Miller, *imdb.com* reports. He is said to be "inconsolable" since he split from the British beauty — who allegedly dumped the star due to his possessive ways.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

New addition for Amy Jo Johnson

CHILD Amy Jo Johnson, who played Keri Russell's best friend Julie Emrich on the series Felicity, is expecting her first child in late fall, *People.com* reports a rep as having confirmed. Johnson, 37, is shooting the new CBS show, Flash-point, while pregnant with her child with fiancé Oliver Giner. She stars as Jules Callaghan, a police sniper, in the show that premieres July 11.

A former gymnast, Johnson achieved fame with her first major television role as Kimberly Hart, the Pink Ranger, in 1993's Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity brief

MONEY Reese Witherspoon is Hollywood's highest paid actress, according to a new study. The Legally Blonde star pulls in an estimated $15 to $20 million US per film, putting her at the top of the new Hollywood Reporter rich list, ahead of Cameron Diaz and Nicole Kidman, *People.com* reports. Renee Zellweger, Halle Berry and Julia Roberts also make the new trade Top 10.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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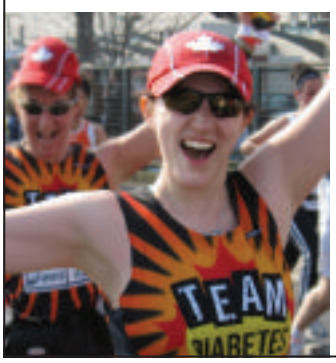

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Register by: June 27, 2008

Prague
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Celebrity Buzz

Spelling's baby 'meant to be'

BABY Tori Spelling has confessed her new baby daughter Stella wasn't planned — the tot was a happy accident, *imdb.com* reports.

The former Beverly Hills, 90210 star welcomed the new arrival, her second child with husband Dean McDermott, earlier this month.

The 35-year-old actress insists the couple definitely hadn't planned on having another baby so soon after the birth of one-year-old Liam Aaron — claiming it was fate for her to get pregnant for a second time.

She tells *People.com*, "I was on one (contraceptive) pill and wasn't feeling well, so I went off of it. Two days later, the doctor put me on another, and on that one day, we conceived. It was meant to be!"

But Spelling is now considering expanding their brood once again: "We like making babies. Gosh, I always said I'd be happy having one of each, and I still maintain that. But I wouldn't mind having three."

McDermott is also father to nine-year-old Jack from a previous relationship.

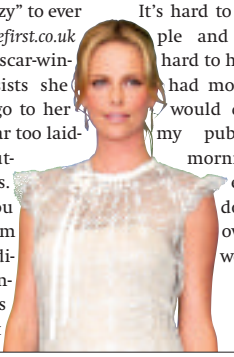
METRO NEWS SERVICES

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Theron too lazy to be a diva

CELEBRITY Charlize Theron says she is too "lazy" to ever be a diva, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports. The Oscar-winning actress insists she hasn't let fame go to her head and she is far too laid-back to make outrageous demands. She said: "You know what, I'm lazy and to be a diva takes a lot of energy and so that's why I don't do it because I just don't have the energy. It's a lot of work to be a diva. People forget. It's hard to yell at people and it's really hard to hit them. If I had more energy I would do it. I hit my publicist this morning. Apparently that doesn't go over too well!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Diaz dating Aniston's ex?

RUMOURS Actress Cameron Diaz has further fuelled speculation she is in a new relationship with Jennifer Aniston's ex, model Paul Sculfor — after she was snapped smooching with him while out on a walk, *imdb.com* reports. Earlier this month, Diaz was linked to Sculfor after they were spotted dining together at Santa Monica's Il Ristorante di Giorgio Baldi in California. And now, the seemingly loved-up pair were seen enjoying a passionate embrace while taking a stroll on a beach in Los Angeles recently.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Spears earns overnight rights

CHILDREN Britney Spears has been awarded overnight privileges with her sons, *People.com* reports. The pop star hasn't had her children overnight since January following her forced hospitalization at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. A closed-door hearing was attended by Spears and her ex, Kevin Federline. "I think any judge is pleased to see progress being made by parties in a case," L.A. Superior Court spokesman Allan Parachini said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

More kids: Church

FAMILY Charlotte Church just announced that she's pregnant with her second child. But the 22-year-old has no plans to stop there, *People.com* reports.

In fact, the singer-turned-talk-show-host wants "between four and six" children, she told the BBC's Jonathan Ross. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Shields' young paparazzi training

PHOTOS Brooke Shields has trained her eldest daughter to deal with the paparazzi photographers who hound the actress and her family, *imdb.com* reports. Shields shares two daughters with her TV-writer husband Chris Henchy, and she reveals the constant press attention she gets when out with her girls has prompted her to teach Rowen, the eldest, how to react. The actress says, "(Rowan) will say, 'Mom, paparazzi.' It's sad to me that she even knows the word. But then I said, 'What do you do about that?' and she said, 'Well, I look straight ahead and I don't look them in the eye.' So there's the sense of don't let them invade."

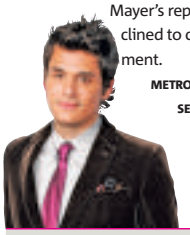
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity brief

RELATIONSHIP John Mayer might have broken Minka Kelly's heart when he left her for Jennifer Aniston — but he had the decency to call her before the news about them hit the press, *PageSix.com* reports. A pal of Kelly's said, "Minka received a call from John (and) He apologized (saying), 'Sorry, but I'm really in love.'" She found that interesting as, "during his relationship with her, John mentioned, 'I don't really get this Jennifer Aniston thing.'"

Mayer's rep declined to comment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Celebrity brief

THE DRESS No one will soon forget the Vivienne Westwood wedding dress that Sarah Jessica Parker wore so memorably in the Sex and the City movie, *intouchweekly.com* reports. However, the designer found the movie itself rather forgettable — not to mention the fashion: "I thought Sex and the City was supposed to be about cutting-edge fashion and there was nothing remotely memorable or interesting about what I saw. I went to the premiere and left after 10 minutes."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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CITY 9.9L/100KM (29 MPG)†

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